

THE TIMES Saturday

Blue... The journey of a lifetime around Australia... remembered... The scandal of the men who were shot at dawn



... hills The best of shopping in Hampstead and Highgate Happy... John Parker celebrates the village cricket final at Lord's... highways Your chance to win a Ford Sierra XR4i

Irish police free kidnap victims

Mr Richard Hill and his daughter, Diane, relatives of an informer, who were threatened with death by their Irish National Liberation Army kidnappers, were rescued after a police raid on a Donegal. Shots were fired as the Special Task Force freed the kidnap victims and there were two car chases along mountainous roads. A search failed to find the terrorists. Page 2

Space war ban

President Andropov of the Soviet Union proposed a moratorium on anti-satellite weapons in space, provided the United States responds in kind. He told US senators that super power relations were tense. Page 5

Rent debts rise

Rent arrears on council houses have now reached record levels throughout the country. In London, about 900,000 tenants were said to be in debt last year. Page 3

Nkomo appeal

Mr Joshua Nkomo was welcomed by 5,000 supporters when he returned to his political stronghold of Bulawayo. He urged them to "pull together to make our nation one". Page 5

Poll bloodshed

Thirty-three people were killed, 309 arrested, and 26 houses burnt in a week of election violence in the western Nigerian state of Oyo, the Nigerian news agency reported. Page 4

Pevsner dies

Sir Nikolaus Pevsner, the architectural historian and author of a 46-volume guide to English buildings, died at his home in Hampstead, London, aged 81. Page 10

Coin sales drop

Sales of Kugermans in July were 20 per cent below those in the same month last year and more than a third down on June. Dealers blame gold's flat performance. Page 13

Greenham fury

A Greenham Common peace protester threatened a hunger strike when she was jailed for contempt amid chaotic scenes at Newbury Magistrates' Court. Page 2

American leads

Corey Pavin, of the United States, took a first round lead in the Benson and Hedges £10,000 International golf tournament at Fulford yesterday when he hit a seven under par 65. Page 18

Letters: On Rhine Army policy

from General Sir David Fraser, David Steel, from Mr C Darnall, Flour regulations from Dr W W Yellowless and others. Leading articles: Russia; British Rail; Northern Ireland. Features: pages 6-8. The lessons of the Shah of Iran's coup, 30 years ago today; holiday reading for Ronald Reagan; Edinburgh's annual competition; Spectrum: The Friday Page scuttles some naval traditions. Page 18

Obituary: page 18

Sir Nikolaus Pevsner, Ira Gerstwin, Mr James Scotland, Elisabeth Fen

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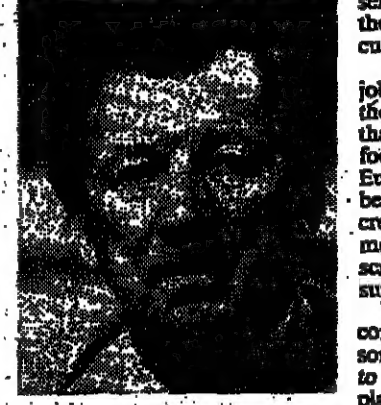
Unions prepare for battle over 17,000 rail jobs

By Paul Routledge, Labour Editor

Railway union leaders yesterday signalled their intention to resist British Rail's new five-year corporate plan, which envisages a further cut-back of 17,000 jobs and the closure of 1,900 "surplus" track miles. But their hostility was muted and there is no immediate threat of a strike over British Rail's plans to reduce by 25 per cent its reliance on government subsidies in the period up to 1988. Sir Peter Parker, the outgoing British Rail chairman, predicted that the unions would accept the proposals.

Mr Ray Buckton, general secretary of the Associated Society of Locomotive Engineers and Firemen, said his members would resist "anything that retards the quality of the service or the working conditions of those in the industry". Mr Jimmy Knapp, the National Union of Railwaymen general secretary, agreed: "It looks as though the intention is to solve the industry's problems on the backs of the workforce."

But Sir Peter, who ends his seven-year chairmanship in three weeks, defended the plan saying: "I accept that change is very difficult and awkward. But we have lost about 200 people a week from this system for some time. The number we are talking about over the next five years is actually less than we have lost over the last few years.



Mr Ray Buckton: "Service will suffer."

Board intends to reduce manpower more quickly. The last five-year plan which proposed a reduction of 38,000 posts by 1985 will be exceeded by nearly 4,000 and a further 7,000 posts will be saved in the remaining three years of the plan. Corporate payroll numbers, already down by 55,500 since 1975, will fall by a further 25,900 by the end of 1988. The railways will then employ only 142,000 people.

There is some suspicion in union circles that the plan, a much shorter document than expected, may not be the full story and that further proposals may be in hand for presentation to the Secretary of State for Transport.

Mr Knapp called for new investment decisions from the Cabinet if the railway system was not to suffer "a slow death", while Mr Buckton warned of fresh reductions in services, particularly in Southern Region, if the job cutbacks go ahead.

As many as 2,500 drivers' jobs are due to be phased out, though the Aslef leader insisted that British Rail is asking footplate men at depots such as Euston to work overtime because of a shortage of train crews. "Not only will our members be thrown on the scrap heap, but the service will suffer."

The protest is likely to be confined to that level at least for some weeks. The two sides are to begin talks on the corporate plan in mid-September. Streamlined Science, page 4. Leading article, page 9.

Shares set record for fourth day

By Peter Wilson-Smith

Shares continued their record rise as the pound rose by a cent against the dollar in volatile currency markets yesterday. The stock market moved ahead strongly after an initial rise on Wall Street. The FT 100 index closed at 741.1 before closing at 738.9, a rise on the day of 2.9. It is its fourth successive day of record closes.

With the dollar well below its recent highs, sterling closed up 1.05 cents at \$1.5235 and was also firmer against continental currencies. Its trade-weighted value gained 0.3 to 85.5.

There was also comfort for the City on the outlook for interest rates as the Treasury issued financial markets that rapid growth in money supply should ease.

Figures from the Bank of England confirmed some slackening in money growth, although it is still well above target, and this has helped to dampen any remaining fears that domestic interest rates might have to rise soon.

However, other government indicators published yesterday provide evidence that the economic recovery is sluggish. The longer leading cyclical indicator, which charts movements in the economy a year ahead, scarcely moved between April and July.

Money rate slows, page 13.

Owen backs Steel veto on manifesto

By Philip Webster, Political Reporter

Dr David Owen yesterday stepped into the Liberal Party dispute over the election manifesto by praising Mr Steel's courage and guts in standing up to his party when it had advocated policies which were against the national interest.

In an intervention which seemed certain to infuriate some sections of the Liberal Party, the Social Democratic Party leader suggested that if the Alliance had fought the election on the defence policy approved by the Liberal Assembly it would have been lucky to have achieved what it did.

Dr Owen's remarks came in a media interview in which he made clear, in the strongest terms he has used, his opposition to a merger with the Liberals. What came out of a merger, he said, was not a merger, but a takeover, a "fuzzy" party.

He said that yesterday's opinion poll showing the Alliance in second place demonstrated the appeal of "two parties working together... and retaining some individuality, Liberal and Social Democrat."

But in what Liberals were seeing last night as a show of movement on Dr Owen's part, he gave his backing to a proposal which would allow the members of the Alliance party not fighting a particular seat to have a say over the choice of candidates being made by the other.

Although Dr Owen is opposed to the joint selection of candidates, which is seen as the logical step towards a merger, he said that more practical proposals were "joint shortlisting."

That would effectively mean that members of the party not fighting the seat would be able to prevent any candidate they considered unsuitable from being considered. That, Dr Owen said, was a mechanism for deepening the relationship without considering a merger.

The obvious difference of emphasis within the SDP over a merger was again on show yesterday as Mr Ian Wrigglesworth, one of the party's six MPs, spoke of the "quite futile and not very convincing" search for differences by some people in an attempt to prove the need for a permanent separate identity, and the exaggeration of the different electoral appeal which the two parties had to different sections of the public.

Mr Wrigglesworth, writing in *The Socialist Democrat*, said there had been talk of merger mania, but so far he had only seen mania demonstrated in the SDP by those opposed to a merger.

But Dr Owen's criticism of Liberal policies, and his tribute to Mr Steel for not adopting them, seemed likely to cause more of a controversy.

2,000 dismissed in orange juice row

By Amanda Haigh

All the 2,000 workers at a North Sea platform building unit were dismissed yesterday in a dispute over free orange juice and coffee for working in hot conditions. The men, welders, fabricators, riggers, scaffolders and painters at Highlands Fabricators, of Nigg, 50 miles north of Inverness, walked out nine days ago in protest at the withdrawal of the free drinks and "cooling off" shelters.

They went on unofficial strike because of "excessive" heat inside the platform hull unit they were building for the Hutton Field. They said temperatures inside had increased after pre-heating was introduced.

The company could not give an exact temperature. A spokesman said the free drinks and cooling-off facilities had been withdrawn and steps taken to prevent abuse of showers after the temperatures were reduced. The free orange juice and coffee were costing the company £100,000 a year.

Mr Robert Walker, the managing director, told the men the company was in a very serious financial position because of low productivity, poor attendance, inefficient work practices, and recent unofficial strikes. The men had been sacked because they had broken negotiating procedures.

Mr Rab Wilson, shop steward's spokesman, said: "We do not want a strike. Only recently we took a £20 a week pay cut to help the yard." He had been told the orange juice cost £20,000 a year, but for that each man would have to drink eight gallons a day.

Ban toxic weapons urges chemical war scientist

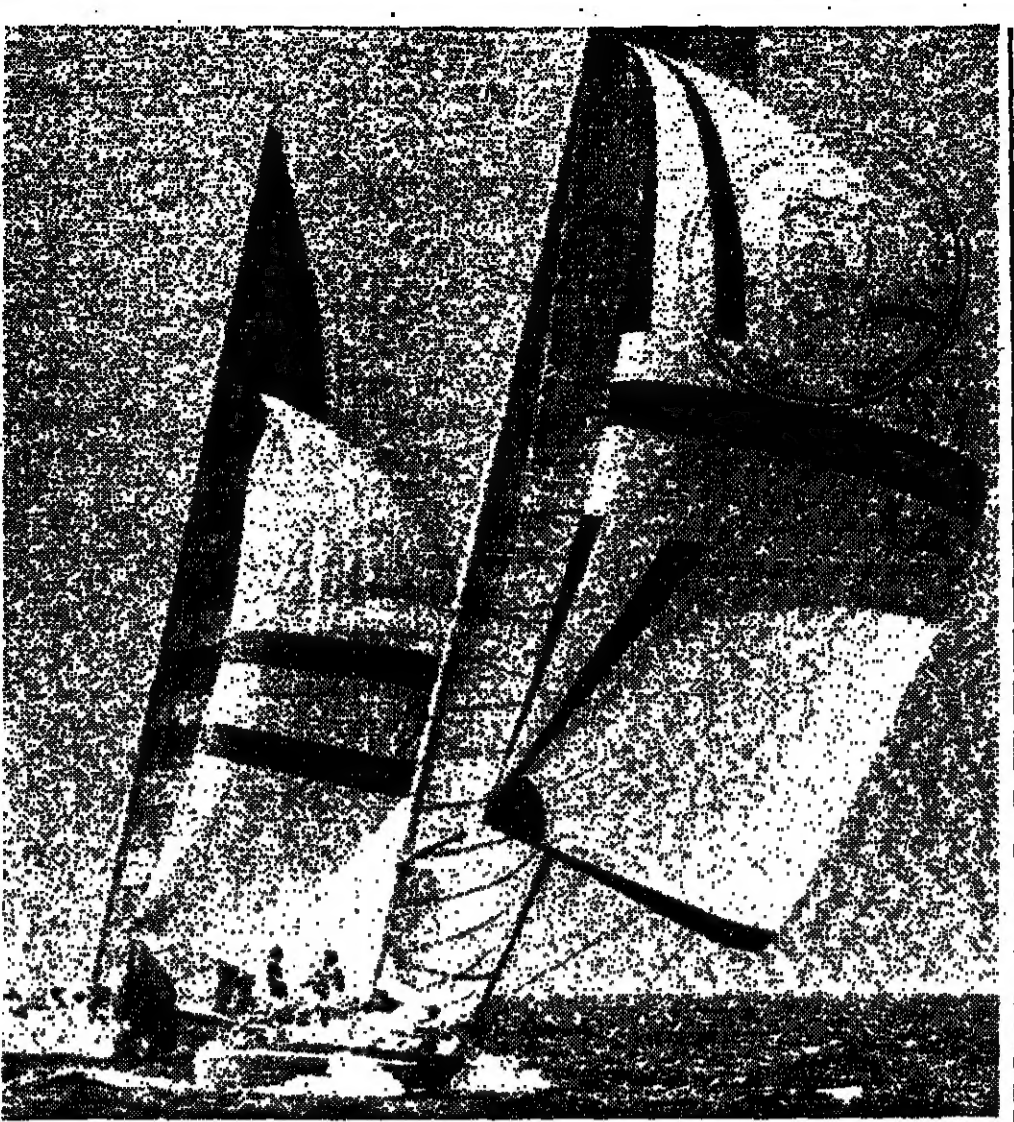
By Pearce Wright, Science Editor

A leading government expert on chemical weapons has made an unprecedented appeal to his colleagues to help find ways of banning such substances, some of which are so devastating that their effects on populations can match those of nuclear weapons.

Dr Thomas Inch, deputy chief scientific officer of the Chemical Defence Establishment at Porton Down, near Salisbury, says revision of the potential effects of chemical weapons has provoked widespread demands for a comprehensive ban, something he believes is possible.

In his appeal to the chemical and pharmaceutical industries, Dr Inch says chemical weapons can now be used as instruments of mass destruction, especially the so-called "supertoxins" which are lethal in unimaginable tiny amounts measured in less than 100,000th part of one milligram.

Until recently chemical warfare strategy involved their use on the battlefield merely to supplement conventional weapons, as in the First World War. However, if their use for mass destruction were envisaged, their effects would be catastrophic. That it could be argued nuclear retaliation was inevitable, and therefore a



Britain's Victory 83 (K-22) leads Canada 1 during foreign selection trials for the America's Cup off Newport. (Report, more photographs, back page.)

Hurricane shuts down Houston

Houston (Reuter) - Hurricane Alicia tore into the south coast of Texas with 120 mph winds early yesterday, cutting off the port city of Galveston and shutting down Houston, the state's biggest city.

The people were reported killed by falling trees.

The eye of the storm hit Western Galveston Island, a coastal barrier island already deserted by residents ordered to evacuate their homes.

Early reports from Galveston said the city had escaped serious damage but a big hotel, the Galveston, was described as a wreck, with one side blown out.

The streets of Houston's business district were strewn with glass and the entire area was closed by police, bringing business to a halt. Houston's airports, some with light aircraft tipped on their backs, were closed until further notice.

Communications with Galveston were sporadic, and the extent of damage was not known. Most telephone lines were down and the main highway to Houston had been closed by rain since Wednesday.

At the Johnson Space Centre, south-east of the city, power was cut, trees were uprooted and windows blown out. Flooding forced evacuations and 15,000 people had sought refuge in shelters across south-east Texas.

French keep Libya guessing on troops

From Roger Beardwood, Paris

France continued to step up its reinforcements in and around Chad yesterday. A further 458 officers and men of the 9th division of Marine Infantry left Paris by air for Chad's neighbour, the Central African Republic and other troops ordered to the region are believed to include members of the Foreign Legion.

The Defence Ministry refused to confirm widespread reports that France is to commit as many as 3,000 soldiers to Chad as well as Air Force units. "We do not discuss numbers or movements," a spokesman said.

Between four and six sophisticated Jaguar ground-attack aircraft are known to be in the region and a number of troop transports. Some reports say French Air Force personnel are now inside Chad, others that they are still across the border in the Central African Republic.

More French military aircraft, including Jaguars are in other nearby African countries. The French are said to be working hard to make the airport at Ndjamena, the capital, suitable for military aircraft and to install advanced radar systems.

At the same time, the rebels are trying to repair the airport at Faya-Largeau.

So far, the Defence Ministry has admitted only to the presence of about 1,000 troops in Chad, most of them in and around the capital, with the rest deployed north along a strategic line some 280 miles south of the rebel-held town of Faya-Largeau.

The French news blackout appears to be designed to keep the Libyans guessing about their intentions. But that tactic could backfire. Colonel Gaddafi, the Libyan leader, believes some of the wider rumours about the rapid and huge French build-up, and counters it with one of his own.

Meanwhile American officials in Paris denied that the US has estimated the number of Libyan troops in Chad at about 6,000. The figure they said, was closer to 2,500. The Chad Embassy, however, put the number of Libyans at 5,000.

MONASTIR: At a news conference on his way home after a three-day visit to Tunisia, Colonel Gaddafi accused the United States of lying about involvement of Libyan troops in Chad to justify Washington's own interference there (AP reports).

Peace call: A joint communiqué issued by Tunisia and Libya at the end of Colonel Gaddafi's visit called for national reconciliation in Chad and the restoration of peace and security there.

The second witness helping police said he saw a dark-coloured car fitting a previous description at a garage at Denton Corner, Newhaven, at about 10.30pm on Sunday night. Two men were standing beside the driver's door and a third was sitting in the driver's seat. The car followed him east towards Seaford and then turned and drove off in the opposite direction.

The boy's ordeal lasted one hour and 40 minutes during which he was driven to an open area in Telcombe, stripped, sexually assaulted and then dumped. He was picked up by a motorist who found him in a shocked state.

The victim of the attack was still suffering both mentally and physically yesterday.

Shopman may have seen sex attackers

By a Staff Reporter

A newsagent has given police a description of three men he thinks may have kidnapped and sexually assaulted a boy aged six in Brighton.

Sussex police yesterday described the information as a "significant development" and are appealing to anyone recognising the descriptions to contact them.

The man has told police that the three men entered his shop in Upper Lewes Road, Brighton, as the boy was leaving after buying some sweets. They left after one of them had bought a packet of cigarettes. The descriptions fit those given by the boy, who was kidnapped at 9pm on Sunday while returning home after playing with friends.

Police are also working on information given by a motorist who says he saw three men with a car at a garage near the spot where the boy was found at 10.40pm.

Many people have offered reward money for information leading to the arrest of the three men. Last night the total was £32,500. This includes £10,000 from *The Sun* newspaper and £5,000 from an author who wishes to remain anonymous.

The man who bought the 20 John Player Special cigarettes was yesterday described as aged 30, 5ft 11in tall, of big build and with a large stomach. He has very dark brown or black hair which is straight and almost shoulder length. He has a mark on his face which looks like a lanced boil.

The second man is described as aged 25, 5ft 10in tall, of medium build. He has short brown hair and was wearing dark trousers and metal-framed spectacles.

The third man is approximately 6ft tall, aged between 20 and 25 and of slim build. He has very blond hair which appears natural but which has been cut very short and layered. He was wearing a white shirt and jumper, fawn trousers and was thought to be the driver of the car.

The newsagent who gave the descriptions was last night helping police draw up photos and was studying photographs on police records.

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B.P.T.A. MEMBER

Shots as police rescue informer's relatives under INLA death threat

From Richard Ford, Belfast

Terrorists fired shots as police officers as they fled after two Irish National Liberation Army kidnappers were freed unharmed yesterday. The police, acting on information, had raided a remote cottage in Donegal village at dawn.

Officers of the republic's Special Task Force stormed a house on the outskirts of Cortabork and found Mr Richard Hill, aged 50, and his daughter Diane, aged 13, asleep on the floor of a bedroom with their windows nailed.

The gang, which had held the pair since abducting them from a holiday home at the beginning of the month, fled from the five-bedroom house only 30 minutes before the police raid. They had been kidnapped by the INLA in an attempt to stop an informer, Harry Kirkpatrick, giving evidence against 18 people.

But the terrorists are still holding his wife, Elizabeth, whom they have threatened to kill unless he retracts his statements. Mr Hill is the stepfather of Mr Kirkpatrick.

Four vehicles were hijacked by the gang, which was believed to have 10 members. There were two high-speed chases along the winding and mountainous roads of the wild country on Donegal's north-west coast.

Two men were detained in a stolen car after one chase and

last night they were being held under the republic's Offences against the State Act at Letterkenny police station. One is believed to be from Northern Ireland.

In another chase, a gunman jumped from a stolen car and opened fire on a pursuing police car with an Armalite rifle hitting and puncturing its tyres. The police returned fire but no one was hit and the stolen car sped off, and was found abandoned in Buncbeg. The men then hijacked another vehicle, which the police were still searching for last night.

The rest of the gang in two other hijacked cars escaped despite a police search throughout the county, which was helped by the Army Air Corps and involved sealing off many roads.

As Mr Hill and his daughter were being interviewed by detectives at Letterkenny after a medical examination, the police discovered a revolver, clips and bullets in the house and two primed blast bombs in the back garden. An Army bomb disposal team was called in to make them safe.

Also found outside the house, rented by a woman from a local businessman, Mr Anthony Kelly, two weeks ago, were a stolen van and a car.

After breakfast Mr Hill told the police that he and his

daughter had been tied up for long periods but late at night had been allowed to go for walks along a lonely path near the house with their guards.

When the police ran to the back bedroom of the house at 4.30am yesterday the Hills were still asleep, although they had been with their captors late on Wednesday night when the group's warning that they and Elizabeth would be "executed" shortly was broadcast.

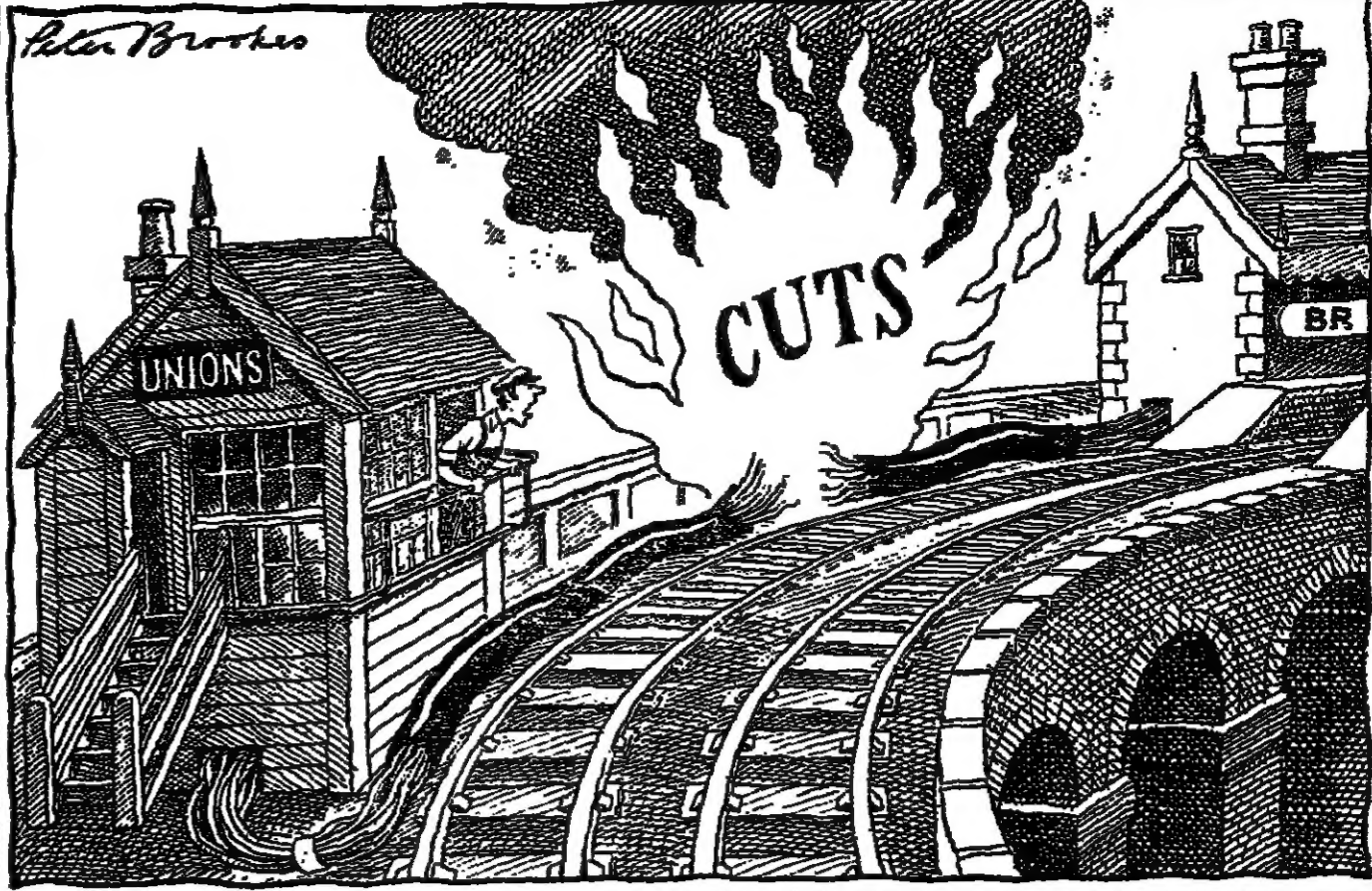
Mr Hill telephoned his wife, Elizabeth, at her home in west Belfast at 7am telling her and a family friend that he was all right, although a little weak.

Mrs Hill, 46 today, said her husband's and Diane's release was the best birthday present and added: "It is like someone handing me the pools."

She appealed for Mr Kirkpatrick's wife to be freed.

A court in Le Havre yesterday reversed a decision releasing on remand one of two Frenchmen arrested on Friday after a supply of arms and munitions was discovered on board a lorry bound for the Irish Republic (Agence France Presse reports).

The court overruled a decision by an examining magistrate to authorize release under strict police supervision. The other Frenchman is still in custody and is expected to be questioned next week.



Workers to hear report of BL talks

Shop stewards at the British Leyland factory in Bathgate, West Lothian, have arranged a mass meeting today with the 1,300 shop floor workers to give them a report on discussions held with company officials in London on Wednesday.

Mr Jim Swan, shop stewards' chairman, said yesterday: "We will be putting a recommendation to the members."

A £10m initial investment is to be made at Bathgate for the development of a new engine in collaboration with Cummins, an American company. But because of a slump in lorry sales, more than 400 redundancies were announced last month for Bathgate, to take effect between September and the end of this year.

● **TOKYO (AFP)**—Workers here yesterday urged management of Nissan, Japan's second largest car maker, to scrap its plan to produce cars in Britain, arguing that the huge project is risky and could threaten their jobs.

Nissan, which manufactures Datsun, announced in January, 1981, that it would build a factory in Britain at a cost of 100,000 yen (about £270m) to produce 200,000 cars annually.

● A seven-point plan to save British shipyards, where 9,000 jobs are threatened under a survival plan, was launched yesterday by the Scottish TUC.

It was given the immediate backing of the Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions, whose general secretary, Mr Alex Ferry, gave a warning that the death knell for Britain's merchant yards would sound if the Government were to privatize shipyard building. Mr Ferry was speaking at an emergency conference held in Glasgow by the Scottish TUC to launch its plan.

The conference was attended by representatives of unions, trade councils, chambers of commerce and the Scottish CBI. The Scottish TUC's calls for no part of British shipbuilders to be hived off and for its workforce and capacity to be maintained at levels agreed in 1979.

Greenham court uproar

By Nicholas Timmins

A Greenham Common peace protester, Mrs Sarah Hipperson, was jailed for 14 days for contempt of court amid chaotic scenes at Newbury Magistrates' Court yesterday when criminal damage charges against seven of the peace women were dropped.

The women had been accused of damaging slogans on an American Lockheed SR-71 Blackbird spy aircraft last month. The aircraft was at Greenham for an air display.

The protesters said that the last-minute decision, announced on Wednesday, to drop the charges was part of a "cover-up" and designed to spare embarrassment over lax security at the base. The incident, in which the women cut through a perimeter fence, led to a security review.

Mrs Hipperson, aged 55, one of the defendants, went to prison threatening a hunger strike. Three more defendants and three supporters were locked up for the day for contempt as the women tried to bring publicity to the role of the spy aircraft.

Jay Green, who was born at the peace camp, three months ago, was pulled from his mother's arms as the police dragged her and about twenty other women from the court after the chairman, Mr John Broughton, ordered the court to be cleared. No reason was given in court for the dropping of the charges.

Miss Isabella Forshaw, acting for two of the women, said she had been given an estimate that the damage to the plane cost £250,000.

The women say the plane damaged a special membrane covering the plane to prevent radar detection.

Yesterday the women said

TUC and Tebbit break the ice

By David Felton, Labour Correspondent

Trade union leaders detected last night a "more receptive" attitude from Mr Norman Tebbit, Secretary of State for Employment, during their first talks with him for more than 18 months.

The breaking of the ice in relations between unions and Mr Tebbit was concentrated yesterday on the issue of allowances paid to youngsters on the £1,000m Youth Training Scheme but after the 90-minute meeting it was clear that TUC leaders were encouraged to hold further talks with the Minister.

Mr Tebbit said after the meeting that he welcomed a "more realistic view" by the TUC which he said resulted from the general election result.

"Until the general election they entertained some hopes that a Labour government would be returned but I think that they have probably taken the realistic view about the return of a Labour government

in the near future," he said. Mr Tebbit still hoped that the unions would talk to him about his proposals for further trade union reforms which are likely to be introduced next year.

Mr Len Murray, general secretary of the TUC, said that as a result of the meeting he was more hopeful about constructive discussions with the Government.

The issue of talks with the Government on labour reform will be decided at the TUC annual congress in Blackpool next month but in the meantime unions will hold discussions with the Government on other issues.

Mr Murray said there has been "blunt" exchanges but they had not been able to shift Mr Tebbit from his refusal to increase the weekly allowance paid to school-leavers training scheme from £25 to £26.45.

The unions told him that the increase was required by the

index-linking of the allowance agreed by employers. Government, the unions in the report last year that formed the basis for the scheme.

The TUC delegation complained that Mr Tebbit's refusal to increase the allowance, against the advice of the Manpower Services Commission which operated the scheme, could impair the independence of the commission, but replied that he had the final decision on the level of the allowance.

The unions also pressed for an increase in the allowance paid to youngsters who had to travel to attend training centres and he promised to consider their views before reaching a decision.

The meeting was the first between the TUC and Mr Tebbit since he produced his Green Paper for further curbs on the trade union movement in December 1981.

Final plea to save coke works

By Paul Routledge, Labour Editor

Miners' leaders yesterday appealed to the National Coal Board not to close two coking works in South Wales and Durham with the loss of nearly 500 jobs.

One of the two plants, Coedely near Pontypridd, employing 225 men, is making a profit but the coal board wants to close it because the market for foundry coke has shrunk by 75 per cent over the past decade. Its shutdown is opposed by managers as well as the workforce.

The other plant, Fishburn in co Durham, employing 233 men, faces closure because of the fall in demand for coking coal which has driven it marginally into the loss-making category.

The Coal Board said it would announce a decision on the two "final appeals" in due course but it is expected that both plants will close eventually as part of the Board's plan to rationalise its coking coal

Investigation sought into £365,000 Meriden loan

From Arthur Osman, Birmingham

Police were asked yesterday to investigate the fate of a loan totalling £365,000 made by West Midlands County Council to the failed Meriden motor cycle cooperative.

Mr Alan Hope, Conservative leader of the County Council, wrote to Sir Philip Knights, West Midlands Chief Constable, seeking police help.

The cooperative went into liquidation on August 6 with debts of almost £2m. It had not produced a motor cycle since February when workers were laid off.

Mr Hope said he understood that the loan covered the intended manufacture of 250

machines each costing £1,460. He said answers were required to several questions including ones concerning the monitoring of the loan.

Other questions concerned the absence so far of legal action to recover money, the fact that outside solicitors and accountants handled certain matters instead of the appropriate county department, and degree of awareness of the county finance committee about the whole matter.

He said that an earlier loan of £150,000 to the cooperative by the county's enterprise board had been repaid.

Cosmetic surgery warning

Doctors who perform cosmetic surgery without the proper training or skill risk being struck off under tough new rules published yesterday by the General Medical Council. The moves follow numerous complaints about botched cosmetic surgery and high fees.

One unscrupulous clinic is

reported to have charged a woman £1,500 to remove a mole in a 15-minute operation.

Another woman found she could not close her eyes after spending nearly £1,000 to have bags removed, while a stomach-flattening operation left another patient's abdomen looking like "demented trapezoids."

Rastafarian rapists given life sentences

Two Rastafarians were jailed for life yesterday for a series of rapes.

One victim was five months pregnant when the men with dreadlock hairstyles burst into her home and took it in turns to rape her. They threatened to kill her son, aged three, if she would not give in, and she lost her baby as a result.

Passing sentence at Southwark Crown Court, Judge Abdella told Peter Hibbert, aged 22, and Barrington Crossman, aged 24, both of no settled address: "In my experience, these are about the most appalling series of rapes which could have been committed by ordinary human beings."

The two men were members of a group of Rastafarians known as "trouble posse."

Hibbert raped three women a total of six times and Crossman raped four women a total of five times between May and October last year.

Judge Abdella said that they had instilled such terror in their victims that they were at first too frightened to report the attacks for fear of reprisals.

One girl aged 17, raped three times by Hibbert and twice by Crossman, was so frightened for her life that she failed to turn up at court at first to give evidence against the men. The judge ordered that she should be offered police protection.

He described the rapes as a "calendar of scandalous and vicious attacks which must be visited with severe punishment. There is no doubt in my mind that the young pregnant girl lost her baby as a result of what you did."

The rapes usually occurred after noisy, all-night cannabis-smoking parties held in derelict houses in north London, Miss Ann Currow, for the prosecution said.

The girls were Rastafarians or sympathetic to the creed. But, Miss Currow added:

"In all the attacks, the girls were roughly treated, threatened with violence and knives were produced. They threatened to punch their pregnant victim in the stomach if she did not comply."

The men were arrested after someone telephoned to say that a neighbouring house was being burgled. Three men were breaking down the front door. It was Hibbert and Crossman and a third Rastafarian, Trevor Kettle, who were visiting two girls they had met.

One girl fled, but her friend was raped by all three men in a car park nearby. Kettle, also of no settled address, was convicted of the rape at an earlier trial and sentenced to four years' youth custody. Other girls told the court they had been raped.

Hibbert, nicknamed "Asher Dread", and Crossman, known as "The Senator", were both known as "masters of ceremony" because they frequently arranged the all-night music parties.

Girls were terrified of the men, all of Jamaican origin, who carried knives.

The "trouble posse" drew their name from the fact that whenever they arranged parties trouble would result.

Hibbert had denied all of the rapes but changed his plea to guilty of twice raping the pregnant woman. Crossman had denied the rape except that on the girl aged 15.

Hibbert was given two life sentences for the double rape of the pregnant woman. Crossman was sentenced to life for raping her once. Crossman was jailed for 12 years for raping the girl aged 15. Both were sentenced to 10 years for each attack on the frightened witness. They were also jailed for seven years for raping the girl in the car park.

Hodgson joins Mestel in the lead

From Harry Golumbek, Chess Correspondent, Southport

Julian Hodgson, the young London international master, has drawn level with Jonathan Mestel's grandmaster in the Grievous Grant British chess championships in Southport.

Mestel's hard-fought game with Murray Chandler was eventually drawn in 43 moves.

Mestel's grandmaster in the Grievous Grant British chess championships in Southport. Mestel's hard-fought game with Murray Chandler was eventually drawn in 43 moves. Mestel's grandmaster in the Grievous Grant British chess championships in Southport. Mestel's hard-fought game with Murray Chandler was eventually drawn in 43 moves.

Correction

In a report on August 11 it was stated that the cheapest advance booking scheduled return fare for £70. The correct fare for £70, inclusive of airport charges.

Overseas selling prices: Australia \$68, Belgium 60, Canada 60, Denmark 60, France 60, Germany 60, Greece 60, Hong Kong 60, India 60, Italy 60, Japan 60, Korea 60, Luxembourg 60, Malaysia 60, Mexico 60, Netherlands 60, New Zealand 60, Norway 60, Portugal 60, Singapore 60, South Africa 60, Sweden 60, Switzerland 60, Taiwan 60, Thailand 60, Turkey 60, USA 60, USSR 60, Yugoslavia 60.

Expulsions by Labour contested

A former Labour Lord Mayor of Bradford, one of 11 members expelled from Bradford North Labour Party on Wednesday said yesterday that he would appeal to the party's national executive.

They were expelled for not supporting the official candidate, Mr Pat Wall, a supporter of *Militant*, at the general election in June and for working instead for Mr Ben Ford, the former Labour MP, who stood as an independent.

Mr Eddie Newby, a party member for 39 years said: "I shall appeal and I think the others will. We claim that our support for Mr Ford was justified."

Walker lay hurt for two days

A walker missing for two days in the Lake District was found yesterday lying injured on a hillside. Mr Michael Murphy, aged 29, left home in Oxenholme, Kendal, Cumbria, on Tuesday.

Mr Murphy, who had chest and back injuries, had lain unable to move for two nights on Bowfell, near Grasmere. Later, his condition was said to be serious as at West Cumberland Hospital, Whitehaven.



Lord Gormley in fair form

Lord Gormley, aged 66, the former miners' president (above), arriving home in Sanbury, Surrey, yesterday after being treated in Charing Cross Hospital for a slight stroke.

Labour set for wrangle over NEC

By Stephen Goodwin

The Labour Party conference in October will open with a rule-book wrangle over elections to the national executive committee.

There is doubt over the eligibility of five nominees who were all defeated in the general election in June. They include Miss Joan Lester and Mrs Ann Taylor, former backbenchers, and Mr John Speller, winner of the Northfield by-election.

The powerful arrangements committee is unhappy at the present NEC's recommendation that the five should be allowed to stand. The executive maintains that had the general election taken place after the conference they would have been eligible to stand as either MPs or prospective candidates.

Mr Wedgwood Benn is among a number of defeated MPs and candidates who are able to stand in their own right as delegates.

Mr Benn is seeking reelection in the constituency section, as are two of the party leadership contenders, Mr Neil Kinnock and Mr Eric Heffer. Mr Michael Meacher, one of the candidates for the deputy leadership, is also seeking one of the seven constituency seats, and another, Mr Gwyneth Dunwoody, is going for reelection.

The party leader and deputy automatically sit on the executive committee.

A further complication for unions and local parties in deciding how to cast their votes may arise if constituency Labour parties fail to pay their affiliation fees by the postponed date of September 5.

Footballer cleared

David Cooper, the Rangers and Scottish international footballer was cleared by a Falkirk court yesterday of reckless conduct after a coin-throwing incident at the Falkirk-Rangers cup tie in January.

Giving his judgment after a two-day trial at Falkirk Sheriff Court, Sheriff Robert Younger said the evidence of one of the spectators was inconsistent and was not sufficiently reliable to corroborate the evidence of a policeman. Mr Cooper, of Grogan Crescent, Ladywell, Motherwell, denied throwing a coin from the playing area towards the spectators, injuring a boy.

The Chartered Associations (Protection of Names and Uniforms) Act 1926

Notice is hereby given that The National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children has applied to the Under Secretary of State, Home Office, for the making of an Order in Council under Sub-sections (1) and (2) of Section 1 of the Chartered Associations (Protection of Names and Uniforms) Act 1926 to protect the name of the Society and the following names, designations and badges used by the Society in pursuance of its Royal Charter and Supplemental Royal Charters, that is to say:

- The name "THE NATIONAL SOCIETY FOR THE PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO CHILDREN";
- The abbreviation "NSPCC";
- The name "NSPCC Young League";
- A badge depicting the letters "NSPCC" adjacent to the hand of an adult grasping the hand of a child;
- An oval shaped badge worn without uniform with irregular edges depicting the Scales of Justice, surrounded by the words "The Prevention of Cruelty to Children" and surmounted by a crown;
- An oval shaped badge, worn without uniform, with regular edges depicting the Scales of Justice, surrounded by the words "The Prevention of Cruelty to Children" transcribed by a sword.

Any objection to the application by any person or society affected or likely to be affected by the Order may be made in writing to the Under Secretary of State, Home Office, Room 331, 50 Queen Anne's Gate, London SW1H 9AT by not later than 12th Sept. 1983, specifying fully the grounds for the objection.



Police officers removing a protester from the court (Photograph: Chris Harris).

The Ministry of Defence dismissed as "rubbish" the suggestion of £250,000 of damage.

The United States Air Force has said the damage amounted to no more than the cost of wiping off the paint.

In a statement on Wednesday night, the ministry said the case was being dropped because the International Air Tattoo raises large sums for charity, no significant damage was done, and the USAF did not wish to "cast a shadow over the tattoo" by any court proceedings.

Yesterday the women said

the aircraft is regularly chased off by Soviet fighters and a clash could trigger a nuclear war.

The court was cleared after magistrates ruled that the charges could be withdrawn and were hearing applications for costs.

Mrs Hipperson started describing the break-in and the aircraft's role, and refused to be silenced. The bench ordered her arrest and for 10 minutes police officers struggled to pull away women who sat and lay down in the court attempting to protect her and shouting "cover-up".

Yesterday the women said

When the court resumed, Mrs Hipperson, a member of the Roman Catholic

organization, Pax Christi, was sentenced to 14 days jail for contempt. She told the court: "I do not recognize your court or your authority over me. I did until this morning, but have been a witness to what has taken place here, I cannot."

I shall neither eat nor drink from a planet that is hell-bent on destroying itself. You may have my body, but I have my conscience."

She was again carried from the court to applause from the women.

Council concern grows as rent arrears reach record levels

By David Walker, Local Government Correspondent

Councils are owed record amounts in unpaid rent and housing managers are increasingly worried by arrears which in some areas total as much as 15 per cent of rent income.

In Newcastle upon Tyne, arrears grew by 27 per cent between March, last year, and March, this year. In Birmingham, they are estimated at £10m out of total rent income of £142m. In Liverpool, traditionally an area with high arrears, the figure is more than 11 per cent of rent income down from the record 15.5 per cent in 1981-82, when a prolonged strike by typists threw the system into disarray.

Some of the worst arrears have accumulated in London, where recent sharp rent rises were in the words of one housing manager, the "fast straw" for many tenants. During last year arrears in Newham increased by 80 per cent. At the end of the year, arrears in London totalled more than £80m.

An unpublished survey prepared for the Association of London Borough Housing Officers found that, by the end of last year about 300,000 tenants in the capital were in debt to their council landlords.

In the Labour-controlled borough of Lambeth, 30,000 of 45,000 tenants were in arrears last winter; half of Camden's tenants owed back rent. The problem is not confined to Labour areas. One third of Harrow's tenants were in arrears and 24,000 of Wandsworth's 38,000 tenants. Both boroughs are Conservative-controlled.

The report, written by Mr Jim Draper, of the Housing department, depicts a crisis, which has probably worsened since the survey was carried out. In the North-east and North-west a comparable picture has emerged from inquiries by *The Times*.

In Newcastle upon Tyne, where rents have been increased by more than the retail price index, arrears amounted to 2.9 per cent of rent totals in 1981-82, but were 3.7 per cent by the end of 1982-83. These figures relate to present tenants; a further £500,000 is owed by people who have since moved out.

A council official pointed to the growth in long-term unemployment in trying to explain the rise; the government's new housing benefit system for low-income tenants introduced in April appears to have made no difference to the problem.

Birmingham City Council blamed the sharp increase in arrears last autumn on a strike at a local Department of Health and Social Security office which delayed payments of benefits.

According to Mr Draper's report on London, which draws on evidence from all the boroughs, the big growth of arrears has little to do with the absolute level of rents but rather with recent increases which since 1980 have pushed rents up by more than 70 per cent.

● Birmingham City Council has recruited a private debt-collection agency to try to track down tenants who vanish leaving behind large arrears. The decision was taken after the council had to write off £2m in unrecovered rents last year.

Koo Stark fails to reveal anything



Miss Koo Stark's Australian television debut last night on the *Parkinson in Australia Show* was described by Brian Courtis, television critic of *The Age* newspaper in Melbourne, as almost "the non-interview of the decade".

BBC service for computers

By Bill Johnstone, Electronics Correspondent

The BBC is expected to begin regular transmission of programs for home computers from next month. Its teletext service, Ceefax, is being investigated by several companies prepared to offer a similar service on cable television.

The home computer software division of the company has been writing and testing the programs for Atari, Commodore, and Texas Instrument machines, which include educational ones as well as video games, would be "pumped" down cable and the home computer, connected to the television, would select a program suitable for the particular computer.

This new market of "teletext" are required to "link" the program from the Ceefax broadcasts, will be made available.

The program will be free to the user but the Acorn adaptor is expected to retail for about £200, the dozen or so programs available will be charged every two weeks.

In the future computer programs testing pupils' attention to a specific school broadcast may be transmitted on Ceefax for use by teachers on school computers.

Nuncio cautions Pope's 'double'

The Vatican has not given permission for a Merseyside policeman to impersonate the Pope at charity events, and would not be likely to if asked, a spokesman for the Pope's representative in Britain said yesterday.

Police Constable William Bird, of Litherland, was seeking clarification yesterday of the Vatican's official view of his striking resemblance to the Pope, and whether it approves at his using the resemblance to raise money for charity.

He had a letter from a senior Vatican official after he sent off photographs of himself in copies of papal robes his wife made for him. It said "The Holy Father wishes you to know that he appreciates the sentiments which prompted you to write to him and thanks you very much for the photographs. He invokes God's blessing upon you."

Photograph of PC Bird, aged 50, a Roman Catholic and a policeman for 26 years, were published in newspapers and charity organizers asked him to make appearances. But then a statement from the Vatican denied that the Pope had given permission.

Yesterday Mgr Luigi Ventura, a spokesman for Archbishop Bruno Heim, the Papal Nuncio in Britain, said: "The Vatican has not given permission for Mr Bird to impersonate the Pope."

As far as I am aware Mr Bird has not formally requested permission to impersonate the Pope. If he makes an official request to do this it would be considered, but I feel it is unlikely that it would be granted. It is a question of good taste."

PC Bird said yesterday: "I never claimed that I had official approval. That was in the newspapers and television interpreted the letter I received from the Vatican."

He said he would try to communicate with the Vatican through the Archbishop of Liverpool, Mgr Derek Worlock.

Football clubs given stiffer crowd rules

By Kenneth Goelling

The 92 Football League clubs were given yesterday a list of crowd control measures to be put into effect from the start of the new season next Saturday. Clubs will face strong disciplinary action if they fail to implement the mandatory measures.

Welcoming the recommendations, which include strong emphasis on forward planning, on the control of alcohol sales in grounds, and improved liaison with the police, Mr Neil Macfarlane, Minister for Sport, said that spectator violence was "an unacceptable problem that besets our national game."

A liaison group including government departments, the football bodies, British Rail, and the Association of Chief Police Officers drew up the present recommendations after being set up in 1981 to work with the Spanish authorities to try to prevent crowd trouble at the World Cup finals in Spain last year.

The most important aspect of the guidelines is that for the first time clubs will be ordered to take certain crowd-control measures. Others are strongly recommended.

There are nine mandatory measures. Clubs must: Make adequate arrangements to segregate rival supporters. Undertake liaison with the police, the opposing club, and rail and coach operators at least 10 days before a match to determine movement of spectators and arrangements (in case of FA or League Cup matches consideration must be given to replay arrangements). Ensure that terraces are kept free of objects that could be used as missiles.

Clubs are also recommended to take legal steps to ban known troublemakers and cooperate as closely as possible with magistrates. Leading players and officials should, the guidelines say, appeal in programmes and over public address systems for good behaviour.

Close relationships with supporters' clubs are urged, with encouragement to supporters to travel to away matches in chartered, stewarded, responsible groups.

Mr Macfarlane also referred to powers available to the courts to deal firmly with offenders and drew attention to by-laws banning alcohol on trains carrying supporters.

Three still critically ill after crash

Three people were still critically ill yesterday after the M4 crash involving a lorry and a National Express coach in which three people died.

Two of the dead were named as Mrs Annie Phillips, aged 52, of Swansea, and Mr Patrick Jean Barbis, aged 35, from Paris. Those critically ill were Mr John Lyons, the lorry driver, aged 30, from Cardiff; Mrs Catherine Roche, aged 60, from Northolt, Middlesex; and Joseph Amies, aged 14, from Bristol.

Mr Paul Morris, aged 27, a builder, and his French-born wife, Chantal, aged 26, were coach passengers injured in the crash, and they described it from hospital yesterday.

Mr Morris said he saw the lorry "coming up the other dual carriageway in the other lane. Then the wheel just exploded underneath the driver; it blew out and I saw the tyre disintegrate. The lorry spun round, turned 30 degrees and came straight towards the barrier."

Radiation check after fire

Scientists are checking for radioactive contamination after a fire at the Atomic Energy Research Establishment at Harwell, Oxfordshire. The fire broke out late on Tuesday night in a laboratory containing radioactive uranium and plutonium. Checks so far have proved negative, but damage is estimated at more than £10,000.

Mr Harry Cole, spokesman at Harwell, said the small amount of uranium involved was only mildly radioactive.

Suicide outcry man wins appeal

The who was told by Judge Richards that he wanted would be suicides to "show more efficiency" yesterday won his appeal against a one-year prison sentence. It was amended to two years' probation.

The Court of Appeal said that not all the evidence had been available last month when Marcus Moseley, aged 26, was sentenced for forgery, deception, and burglary. Moseley had attempted suicide on several occasions.

Murder charge man remanded

James Mason, aged 31, of Ashton-in-Makerfield, Greater Manchester, was remanded in custody until Tuesday by magistrates at Wigan yesterday charged with murdering David Moore, an insurance salesman, whose body was found in a sleeping bag in Cumbria last Saturday.

Mr Mason's wife Valerie is already on remand until Tuesday charged with Mr Moore's murder.

Physics A level at grade A for girl of 12

Ruth Lawrence (below), aged 12, who became the country's youngest university student in October, learnt that she had passed yet another examination.

The girl, who has never been to school and had three A levels in mathematics in the top grade, has now passed physics, and again at grade A.

She also achieved a grade one in the special paper of the examination. Her father, Mr Harry Lawrence, a computer consultant at Birkby, Huddersfield, West Yorkshire, said: "We are particularly delighted with this as it was a very difficult paper."

Airlines likely to scrap Atlantic standby

Standby air fares across the Atlantic are expected to be scrapped by a new accord among airlines likely to be announced this weekend (David Hewson writes).

They will be replaced by a low-price winter advance return between London and New York for under £250, while other transatlantic air fares are likely to rise by between 2 and 3 per cent.

Pan American Airways blocked the move at a session of the International Air Transport Association last week, and the fares are to be voted upon by the association's 55 members who are expected to endorse them.

British Airways, British Caledonian, and several American airlines have already supported the new fare structure. Even with the increase, transatlantic fares will be rising more slowly than the rate of inflation, a British Airways spokesman said last night.

Pan American said that it would be abstaining from the vote but expected charge the new fares.

House prices show 5% increase

By Baron Phillips, Property Correspondent

House prices rose by almost 5 per cent in the second quarter of this year, the largest three-monthly increase in four years, the Abbey National Building Society said yesterday.

The society says the rise signals a return of market confidence, but predictions of a price boom probably overstates the position. "Words, they may run the danger of becoming self-fulfilling prophecies by encouraging sellers to add, say, 10 per cent to the price of their home because of rumour or speculation," the society said.

According to the Abbey, the average cost of buying a home is now £27,428, more than £1,200 higher than in the first quarter of this year.

On these figures, the annual rate of increase in house prices is just under 10 per cent, its highest for two years. But the society has given a warning against further sharp price rises this year because most buying is undertaken in the first three months.

Southern England has led the way in price increases, although Wales reflected the largest quarterly rise with the cost of buying a home advancing by almost 8 per cent. Average price rises in the Greater London area were 7.5 per cent; the South-east recorded an increase of just over 6 per cent.

It now costs an average £40,446 to buy a home in the Greater London area compared with £20,718 in the East Midlands, the area with the lowest prices in Britain.

First-time London buyers have had to increase their advances by more than £1,250 to £25,775.

The cost of house-buying in Northern Ireland fell by more than 3 per cent in the second quarter of the year and, according to the Abbey, prices are almost 6 per cent lower than a year ago.

Abbey says that the highest annual increase has been seen in East Angles, where prices rose by almost 15 per cent, followed by the North at 14.8 per cent. In the South-east, the society indicates that prices have risen by 14 per cent.

● The average price of an acre of farmland in Britain has risen above £2,000 for the first time, according to a report published yesterday.

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British Rail promises streamlined service and to reduce its costs

By John Young

A highly optimistic assessment of the future of British Rail in contrast to the gloomy projections of the recent Serpell report, is put forward in the British Railways Board's corporate plan for 1983-88, published yesterday.

The plan envisages no drastic changes in the size of the rail network, proposing a reduction of only about 1,900 track miles. Instead, it predicts an increased volume passenger and freight traffic, which, combined with manpower reductions of 17,000 and other productivity gains, will much reduce the need for government grants.

"The aim of the plan is to take the railway out of recession through increased volume and improved labour and other productivity, leading to a reduction in real terms of the cost to the taxpayer", it says.

The board said yesterday that it expected to move into profit from 1985 onwards, with group profits of more than £90m by 1988.

For the current year it estimates the railways' operating losses at £960m which, offset by a public service operation (PSO) grant from the Government and local authorities of £943m, leaves a deficit of £17m.

But by 1988 it expects to have reduced the losses of £639m. Assuming a PSO grant of £708m, that would leave an operating surplus of £69m and, after taking other activities into account, would be translated into a consolidated profit of £93m.

The plan bases its assumptions on the expectation of big improvements in customer service and competitiveness, operational and administrative efficiency, and labour productivity, including a further reduction of 17,000 jobs.

It avoids the question of future fares but says that "growth in passenger volume must be won in a highly competitive market by improving product quality and per-

formance and through marketing initiatives".

Railway investment is expected to increase by half in 1985 over the present level of about £300m. There will be a big recovery of the backlog of maintenance and renewal of infrastructure over the next five years, the plan says.

There will be much investment in main line, suburban, and provincial rolling stock renewal and improved stan-

disused lines

Freight only

Passenger lines

Scotland: Ladybank to Hiltoun

North-east: Northallerton to

Eastgate 16 miles, Wetherby

junction to Dene Road junction, 5

miles; Oakenshaw junction to

Goose Hill 2½ miles and Gildard

Road, Leeds 1½ miles.

North-west: Garraon junction to

Hall Royal, Manchester, 9½

miles; Brindle Heath to Agreston

junction, Manchester, 7½ miles;

Bilston to Dene Road junction

and Secombe, Cheshire, ½ mile.

Midlands: Nuneaton to Midland

to Nuneaton Abbey, 1½ miles.

Western: Thimbley junction to

Bradford junction, 8½ miles;

Wetherby avoiding line, 2½ miles;

and Frome avoiding line, 2 miles.

London: Old Oak Common to

North Pole junction, ½ mile.

Regular passenger lines

Ribblehead - Appleby

Marylebone - Northolt junction

Healey-in-Arden - Brearley

junction.

dards of punctuality, reliability,

cleanliness, and information.

About £30m a year will be spent

on station refurbishment.

On the freight side, the board

intends to withdraw the loss

making Wagonload system, and

to concentrate on the Speedlink

and Freightliner services. Level

crossings will continue to be

modernized quickly as local

authority consultation pro-

cedures permit.

As against the drastic cuts in

route mileage suggested in the

Serpell report, the plan proposes

a reduction of only about 1,900

track miles, described as no

longer essential to the running

of the railway.

Of the other 600 track miles

proposed for closure, amount-

ing to 382 route miles, about a

third are out of use and another

third carry freight only.

That leaves a balance of 66

route miles with no intermedi-

ate stations (see inset), and 49

miles of regular passenger

services being considered for

closure. The latter comprise 30

miles between Ribbleshead and

Appleby on the Settle to Carlisle

line, and the lines between

Marylebone and Northolt junc-

tion and between Healey-in-

Arden and Brearley junction.

The board emphasized that,

although the ending of passen-

ger services on a firm decision, it

proposed to keep the line, apart

from the Ribbleshead-Appleby

section, open for freight. No

decision had yet been taken on

the closure of Marylebone

station in London and the

diversion of services into

Paddington.

The plan is said to differ from

those of previous years in that it

contains only those projects that

the board believes have a

high probability of achievement

within the five-years of the plan.

An early start on a 10-year

programme of electrification,

beginning with the main line

from King's Cross to Newcastle

upon Tyne and Edinburgh,

remains a priority.

For commuter services in

London and the South-east, the

aim is to keep the average level

of cancellations to below 1.5 per

cent and for at least 87.5 per

cent of trains to arrive within

five minutes of their schedule

● Conversion of the disused

tunnel of the former

Manchester to Sheffield railway

into part of a new road link

between the two cities is

technically feasible, a report

published by the Joint Centre

for Land Development Studies

of Reading University and the

College of Estate Management

says.

Rail delays to last until Monday

By a Staff Reporter

British Rail engineers will be working throughout the weekend to try to restore normal services between London and the South-east by Monday.

Services have been disrupted since Tuesday when a fire in signalling cables led to hundreds of cancellations on Wednesday affecting 300,000 travellers. British Rail said yesterday: "We are not looking for a 100 per cent service until Monday."

Services have been resumed in Sussex and other areas to the north of London, but passengers in Kent and south-east London are still receiving a skeleton service.

Yesterday 300 rush-hour trains were cancelled. Many commuters were forced to travel by car, bus, and Underground. British Rail is appealing to them to continue using alternative transport until after the weekend.

Trains were running yesterday at half-hour intervals, instead of every 15 minutes, on lines from Charing Cross to Gillingham and Orpington, and Cannon Street to Dartford via Greenwich.

Lines between Hither Green and Dartford, Lewisham and Dartford, Grove Park and Bromley North, and Orpington and Sevenoaks were badly affected; mainline services from Folkestone and Dover, normally finishing at Charing Cross and Cannon Street were diverted to Victoria.

Weekend travellers to the south coast were yesterday reassured that a service "as normal as possible" will be provided.

A spokesman said: "The engineers are working flat out to repair the cables and will be working round the clock over the weekend."

They are working on more than 4,000 wires damaged when 20 signalling and telephone cables were burnt out on Tuesday night near London Bridge station.



Bar massacre driver charged

The scene at the Inland Motel at the base of Ayers Rock in central Australia after a lorry driver who had been refused a drink drove his 120-tonne juggernaut into the bar.

Two men and two women killed immediately and a fifth person died later in hospital in Alice Springs, about 250 miles to the north-east. More than a dozen people were injured, some seriously (Tony Dubou-din writes).

The driver escaped in the confusion.

but some hours later the police using Aboriginal trackers, arrested an Alice Springs man aged 36 at a construction camp. He was charged with four counts of murder.

Yesterday the "road train" - the name given to the super juggernauts used in northern Australia - which had ploughed 90ft into the motel, was still embedded in the wreckage. Many people were crushed by the lorry which was hauling three fully-laden trailers. "The place has been almost

demolished. There was blood everywhere", a police spokesman said.

The rescue operation was hampered by heavy rain and the distance to the nearest hospital at Alice Springs. The injured had to be flown there by the Royal Flying Doctor service.

A witness said that the lorry started its run at the motel from 100 yards. "From what I could gather some people saw it coming and tried to get out of the way", he said.

Queensland crisis forces election

From Tony Dubou-din, Melbourne

The National Party-Liberal Party coalition which has ruled Queensland for 26 years has ended and Mr Johannes Bjelke-Petersen now heads a minority National Party government.

The Premier announced yesterday that Sir James Ramsay, the State Governor, had accepted the resignation of the seven Liberal Party members of the Cabinet. When they were first submitted on Monday Sir James rejected the resignations on the advice of Mr Bjelke-Petersen.

The Premier, an ultra right-winger who has led the coalition for 15 years, is expected to name six National Party backbenchers today to replace the Liberals. Mr Bjelke-Petersen is expected to announce the date for a state election on Monday and observers believe that he will opt for October. It is unlikely that the state parliament will meet before polling day.

Mr Bjelke-Petersen predicted that his party would emerge as the only true anti-Labour party in Australia.

"There is no government or party in power other than the National Party in Australia that's not a socialist government or with a socialist background or policy. We are the last front against the forces of socialism", he said.

The Queensland crisis began two weeks ago when Mr Terry White, then Minister for Welfare Services, and seven Liberal backbenchers crossed the floor and voted with the Labour opposition. Mr White was dismissed by Dr Lew Edwards, the Liberal Leader. In the ensuing leadership battle Mr White became party leader after Dr Edwards stepped down.

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A party of 21 Italian tourists, travelling in three minibuses, was attacked by an armed gang in northern Kenya this week.

The five-man gang, travelling in a stolen Mercedes Benz car, overtook the minibuses on a lonely stretch of road 60 miles north of here. They fired a shot through the window on one bus and robbed the Italians of money, watches, cameras and valuables.

The gang then drove off at high speed, but overturned their car a few miles away. Police later recovered some of the stolen property from the abandoned car, but the gangsters escaped.

An official of a tour company here said the group had flown in from Milan and were travelling to Samburu game reserve. One of the Italians suffered bruises, but there were no serious injuries.

The incident is the latest in a series of highway robberies worrying tour operators here.

More troops were deployed in the riot-torn towns of Pakistan's Sind province yesterday in an attempt to contain the protest demonstrations against the martial law regime which began on Sunday with the launching of a new opposition movement called Save Pakistan.

The eight-party Movement for restoration of Democracy, is behind the new grouping.

Troops were first called and on Wednesday to assist paramilitary constabulary and police in Dadu, which has been the scene of the worst anti-martial law protests since General Zia ul-Haq seized power six years ago.

More troops have since been sent to the town of Moro across the river Indus and to the small town of Qazi Ahmad.

Officials put the toll of dead in three days of rioting in Dadu and some other Sind towns at six, but opposition sources estimated that at least a dozen people have been killed and 50 others seriously injured. Several hundred people have been arrested, according to opposition sources.

Nigeria puts off polls in two states

Lagos (Reuters) - Nigeria has postponed tomorrow's senatorial elections in two volatile western states amid continuing protests over previous polls.

A statement yesterday by the Federal Electoral Commission said that elections would go ahead as planned in 17 of the country's 19 states. Voting will be put off in Ondo and Oyo, where violence broke out after allegations of ballot-rigging in gubernatorial elections last Saturday.

Disturbances resumed this week after results showed surprise wins both in states for President Shagari's National Party of Nigeria.

No official casualty figures have been released but unconfirmed reports mention several deaths in clashes between demonstrators and police. At least seven people died on polling day.

Oyo and Ondo were formerly held by Mr Obafemi Awolowo's Unity Party of Nigeria which has its power base among the Yoruba people who dominate the states.

The Electoral Commission said Oyo's senatorial voting would be put back to September 10 after recommendations by the State Electoral Commission. "In view of the fact that the office of the Federal Electoral Commission together with all election materials were burnt down, all further elections in Ondo state are postponed until further notice," it said.

The commission's property, including polling booths, has been a prime target for demonstrators protesting against the results. The electoral body appealed for peaceful voting.

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China sends 80,000 to remote jobs

Peking - Eighty thousand unemployed or delinquent young people have been rounded up in Peking to be sent to work in the remote province of Qinghai, adjoining Tibet, according to informed sources (David Bonavia reports).

Similar roundups have been taking place in other big cities. The authorities are worried by the increase in theft and crime caused by the failure of many young people to find jobs.

Mr Hu Yaobang, Secretary General of the Communist Party, recently visited Qinghai and called for a big effort to modernize and develop its grassy uplands. The dispatching of urban youths there is said to be his idea.

Sham engineer on crash ship

Singapore (AFP) - Albert Evans, a Briton, was fined about £470 here for using a false certificate of competency to become chief engineer on a drilling ship which caused a cable car accident last January, killing seven people. Mr Evans pleaded guilty.

His ship, the Eniwetok, was being towed from a Singapore shipyard when her superstructure hit cable cars causing two cable cars to plunge 200ft into the sea.

Two executed

Abidjan, Ivory Coast (Reuters) - A founding member of Ghana's ruling Council, Joachim Amartei Kwei, and an ex-serviceman, Johnny Ransford Dzandu, were executed at dawn for the murders of four judges and arrested army major in June last year. The death penalty on a third man, Lance-Corporal Samuel Amedeka, was upheld but he has escaped to Togo.

Mystery blast

Washington (AP) - A loud explosive noise rocked a computer operations centre at the Washington Navy yard minutes after a bomb warning was received. No bomb was found and there was no apparent damage or injury.

Hijackers jailed

Seoul (AP) - Six Chinese citizens charged with hijacking a Chinese airliner to South Korea were sentenced to jail terms ranging from four to six years here. China has repeatedly demanded their return.

Tamil chief murdered by rivals

From Our Correspondent Colombo

Splits and rivalries within the Tamil guerrilla movement in the north of Sri Lanka surfaced after the killing of Mr Oberoi Thavan, the leader of the Tamil Thavarn, in Jaffna by members of another group.

Posters have appeared calling on supporters of Mr Thavan to return cash and jewelry estimated at 600,000 rupees (£18,000) allegedly stolen.

The police have offered rewards of 30,000 rupees for information leading to the arrest of left-wingers. Mr Rohana Wijeweera and Mr Uppitasa Gamaarachchi, both of the Peoples Liberation Front, and Mr Vasudeva Namayakkara, the leader of the Equal Society Party.

Guard surrendered to Gelli's 'magnetism'

Geneva (AP) - The Swiss guard who helped Licio Gelli to escape from a Geneva jail on August 10 was yesterday remanded in custody for another three months.

Mr Raymond Foex, the states prosecutor, told a Geneva court that an international inquiry confirmed that the grand master of the outlawed P2 Masonic lodge had continued his flight by helicopter after being driven across the French border to Annecy, about 25 miles from Geneva.

Mr Foex said there was no doubt that several accomplices were involved but Mr Alain

Farina, for the defence, said that his client was Signor Gelli's sole helper.

Mr Farina said that the guard, Mr Edouard Ceresa, who was 30, and who had admitted receiving about 20,000 Swiss francs (about £6,250) from the Gelli family for his role in the escape, "was caught in a cobweb" and succumbed to what he termed the "magnetizing" personality of the Italian.

NICE: Two Italian policemen were on their way to Monaco yesterday after reports that Signor Gelli might have fled by helicopter to the principality after his escape.

Vietnam accused of repression

At least 200 Cambodians a week are making their way through monsoon rains to the Thai border to escape what they claim is unprecedented repression by Vietnamese occupation troops.

More than 10,000 people have come to bases of the non-communist Khmer People's National Liberation Front, which includes former Khmer Rouge regime Pol Pot, since the repression began in late May.

Among the new arrivals are the 1,600 inhabitants of two villages, Phum Lam Veng and Phum Prey in Siem Reap province. During their three-to-four day journey to the border, they saw no Vietnamese troops.

For the first time in years, Cambodians are coming to border areas by boat. Some 300 have just landed in the extreme south-west from where they walked to a front stronghold at Sokh San in the mountains opposite the Thai province of Trat.

Guerrillas guide most of the people on the move to this encampment just east of the Thai border, which is the military headquarters.

The newcomers' statements cannot be independently verified but they are giving consistent accounts of Vietnamese repression. They speak of Vietnamese night raids on villages to arrest people accused of supporting the resistance, of the destruction of property, of theft, physical mistreatment and rape. The say that entire villages are being forced to move again and again presumably to disrupt help to the guerrillas.

Recent arrivals separately

reported that the two most senior Cambodian officials in Siem Reap province, Mr Chhan Seng, the chief of The province, and Mr Neou Sam, chairman of the military organization, had been arrested because of their membership of an underground network.

Averting a satellite war

Russia offers freeze in space

From Richard Owen, Moscow

President Andropov took the initiative on arms control yesterday by imposing a moratorium on anti-satellite weapons in space provided the United States does the same.

During a meeting with a visiting delegation of Democratic Senators, Mr Andropov said that the Soviet Union assumed the commitment not to be the first to put into outer space any type of anti-satellite weapon. He said this amounted to a moratorium by Russia on such launchings "for the entire period during which other states including the US refrain from stationing in outer space anti-satellite weapons of any kind".

Although Mr Andropov described this as an "exceptionally important decision", diplomats pointed out that the Soviet Union is believed to have already tested so-called "killer satellites" and laser weapons in space. "The proposal sounds more convincing than it really is", one diplomat said.

According to Tass, Mr Andropov told the Senators that Moscow wanted complete prohibition of the testing and deployment of all space-based weapons designed to hit targets on Earth. He said his "radical proposal" covered not only the elimination of existing anti-satellite systems but also a ban on development of new ones.

Diplomats said the initiative was a step in the right direction, but had little to do with the central issues in either the medium-range missile talks or the Strategic Arms Reductions Talks (SALT). It was partly based on Russia's fear that it could not match American space weapons developments.

During the meeting, Senator Patrick Leahy of Vermont told Mr Andropov that there was widening distress among both Democrats and Republicans over Soviet arms activities. Senator Leahy said the political basis for American observance of the SALT 2 treaty, which America has not ratified, was being weakened, and a climate was being created which would make Senate approval of any future arms agreement much more difficult.

The Soviet leader said that relations between Moscow and Washington were tense in almost every field, but not by Soviet choice. In a sense, without rules, it would be a dangerous miscalculation to try to gain superiority over Russia at a time of tensions, Mr Andropov said.

Much would depend on the Geneva negotiations, where an agreement before the deployment of new Nato missiles in Europe was still possible. The stationing of Pershing and cruise missiles in Europe would, however, lead to a "lethally dangerous new round in the arms race and would have far-reaching consequences affecting America itself."

Weinberger for Central America

From Our Own Correspondent Washington

Mr Casper Weinberger, the US Defence Secretary, will underscore United States commitment to military involvement in Central America in a three-nation tour early next month.

His presence at a time of intense concern about the build-up of the American military in the region will serve to emphasize that the Administration is determined not to scale down its long-term presence.

Mr Weinberger will visit Panama, El Salvador and Honduras. Panama is the headquarters of the US Southern Command, El Salvador is the principal theatre of America's anti-leftist policies, and Honduras is the site of huge US military manoeuvres that will last until next January.



Family reunion: Mr Nkomo and his wife together again at their Bulawayo home.

5,000 welcome Nkomo in Bulawayo

From Stephen Taylor, Harare

Mr Joshua Nkomo returned to his political stronghold of Bulawayo yesterday with a message of peace and received his most enthusiastic welcome since his arrival from Britain on Tuesday.

The midday arrival of the Patriotic Front leader at the modest suburban home which he fled five months ago was met by an estimated 5,000 supporters, many of whom had waited since dawn.

Mr Nkomo reportedly told them in Ndebele: "We must pull together to make our nation one. If there is conflict we cannot settle it by killing each other."

Although welcomed in Bulawayo, his return is being virtually ignored by the press and broadcasting media in Harare. A leading article headlined: "Dr Who?" in the semi-official Herald newspaper yesterday declared: "The Government would be shooting itself in the foot if it so much as called on him to account for his actions in London."

"He is desperately trying to regain the limelight. Or become a martyr. Dr Nkomo should be ignored as the spent force that he is."

After indicating on his return that he had proposals for a new initiative to repair relations between the Patriotic Front and the ruling Zanu (PF) Party, Mr Nkomo's performance in Parliament on Wednesday was being seen yesterday as a thorough let-down.

A Government spokesman said Mr Nkomo had not met Mr Robert Mugabe, the Prime Minister, since his return and there were no plans for talks.

He confirmed that the US has no plans for a significant increase in its self-imposed ceiling on the number of advisers in El Salvador - currently 55. "A good deal of training is going to be done in Honduras," he said. "That argues that you will not need more in El Salvador."

In familiar style, Mr Weinberger was low-key about his forthcoming visit. He said he would be looking at the "important exercises" in Honduras, speaking to various officials of the host countries and seeking the points of view of US troops.

Symbolically, however, the trip will serve as a rejection of widespread congressional demands for Washington to ease up in Central America.

There is growing alarm about the supposed passage of several Soviet-block cargo vessels towards Nicaragua, supposedly laden with arms for the Sandinista regime. Two weeks ago the US Navy killed a Russian ship off Nicaragua and asked for its name, destination and cargo but Mr Weinberger emphasized that no Soviet vessels would be stopped.

US reconnaissance aircraft have spotted a Soviet cargo vessel in the Caribbean, and according to the Pentagon it is loaded with arms for Nicaragua.

● **GUATEMALA CITY:** General Oscar Humberto Mejia Victores, Guatemala's new military ruler, has said he intends to lead the country towards constitutional rule while continuing a struggle against "third world foreign interests" (Reuters reports).

"We must never permit foreign and alien flags to fly on our territory, imported by those who serve interests which are not ours (seeking) to tie us, like slaves, to peoples and cultures which are very different from ours," he told a student rally.

● **SAN SALVADOR:** El Salvador's 60-member Constituent Assembly voted unanimously to ban all armed groups outside the Army, including both leftist guerrillas and right-wing death squads (Reuters reports).

Spy chief opposed Iraq reactor raid

From Christopher Walker, Jerusalem

The former chief of Israeli military intelligence has disclosed that he opposed the controversial bombing raid which destroyed the Iraqi nuclear reactor near Baghdad in June 1981.

Major-General Yehoshua Saguy said in an Israeli television interview that he had opposed the raid because it might have created a precedent in Middle Eastern warfare which could have damaged Israel in the future and also

because it could have caused a serious split with Israel's main ally, the United States.

His remarks were taken to indicate that he had expressed fears that Arab states might try to launch similar preemptive attacks against Israeli nuclear installations, whose heavily guarded existence in the Negev desert is an open secret.

General Saguy was speaking after announcing that he is leaving the Army. He lost his

post as head of military intelligence because of his actions during the massacre of Palestinian refugees in the Sabra and Chatila camps last year.

He said he had estimated that Iraq would have needed between five and 10 years longer to build a nuclear bomb, a period which he argued would have been sufficient to use non-military means to prevent the development.

Press group protests to Turkey

By Edward Mortimer

The closure of two of Turkey's leading newspapers by the military regime has drawn a protest from Mr Peter Gallingier, the director of the International Press Institute.

Thürmer, the leading conservative paper, was banned last week, and this week it was the turn of the moderate Milliyet. Both have been shut indefinitely without any official explanation.

It was understood, however, that in the first case the regime objected to a critical article written by Mrs Nazli Ilıcak, one of Turkey's best known right-wing journalists, and in the second to articles by Mr Nefiz Tokat, a former independent senator.

Both writers were urging the Government to take a liberal line in allowing new parties to be formed for the November elections. So far only parties encouraged or approved by the military regime have been able to register.

In letters to President Kenan Evren and to Mr Bülend, the Prime Minister, Mr Gallingier says IPI is dismayed by the closing of Milliyet.

3,000 flee flood
Bombay (AP) - The Bhima river flooded the Hindu holy town of Pandharpur in Maharashtra state, forcing more than 3,000 people to flee low-lying areas.

The Hispanic vote

Traditional crop pickers of US prepare to pick the president

From Christopher Thomas Washington

Hispanic Americans, who could have enormous political influence if they ended their interminable feuds, are watching with trepidation and wonder as United States troops pour into Central America, and that might help to unite them.

President Reagan spent a few days courting their support last week, speaking sometimes in crippled Spanish from a prepared text. By all assessments, the net result was to strengthen the overwhelming opposition of most Hispanic Americans to what he is doing in Central America.



Mr Anaya: Force behind registration drive

The real fear - unrealistic though the Administration says it is - is that the US will go to war in the north, and that Hispanics will be sent back to their old countries to fight brothers and cousins. Only the Cubans feel differently; they ache to return with guns in hand.

Next to blacks, Hispanics are the poorest people of the US. Their divisions are a reflection of the conflicts and differences endemic in Central and South America. Hence the Puerto Ricans in New York have little in common with Mexican farm workers in California, or with Cuban refugees in Miami.

Mr Viktor Israelyan, the Kremlin's ambassador to the Geneva disarmament committee, accused Washington of dragging its feet in negotiations here on an international convention banning chemical weapons.

It was doing so, he said, to have a free hand to implement the full-scale plan of the Pentagon to build up the American chemical arsenal.

Mr Anaya, the most senior Hispanic official in the country, Mr Henry Cisneros, Mayor of San Antonio (both are members of the Kissinger Commission on Central America), and Mr Federico Pena, Mayor of Denver.

Their support also contributed to the victories of Governor Mark White of Texas and Mr Harold Washington, Mayor of Chicago, who is black.

There are 14.6 million Hispanic Americans, nearly six million of them eligible to vote. Only about 60 per cent of those have bothered to put their names on the voting register. If that could be raised to the national average of 67 per cent, the Hispanic "swing vote" could be decisive in states such as New York, Florida, New Jersey and Illinois.

The Republicans have not written off their chances of capturing more Hispanic support. They have the overwhelming backing of the Cubans and point out that many recent immigrants from Central America are fervently anti-communist and, therefore, likely to support Mr Reagan's approach.

Even so, the tide is clearly moving decisively in favour of the Democrats. What is not clear is how far a group united mostly by its Spanish language heritage, but divided by historical national conflicts, can muster enough unity to become a lasting political force.

Keep Polish sanctions going, say Americans

Warsaw (Reuters) - A delegation of US Congressmen left Poland saying that Western sanctions should not be lifted until the communist authorities introduce a human rights programme satisfying their own people.

The seven-member group met General Jaruzelski and senior ministers who made it clear they saw the sanctions as unjust and destructive to all sides.

Representative Clarence Long, the group's leader, said they had hoped to see Mr Lech Walesa, head of Solidarity but "it was intimated we would not be welcome in the country if we insisted on seeing him".

UK workforce

The workforce for the Falklands airport project would be recruited entirely from the British labour market, the joint contractors Laing/Mowlem/Arc stated. A local cook and adviser were being employed by the advance party of surveyors and geologists but this would be for only about four weeks until the main construction party arrived on October 1.

Islanders vote

Wellington (Reuters) - Sir Gaven Donne, the Queen's representative in the Cook Islands, has dissolved the 2 assembly and set November 2 as the date for the second election this year in the self-governing Pacific islands.

Quake toll rises

Manila (AP) - The death toll from a strong earthquake in the northern Philippines on Wednesday rose to 13 as rescue workers continued clearing the rubble of collapsed buildings. At least 16 other people were injured.

Honecker goes

Warsaw (AFP) - Herr Erich Honecker, East German Head of State and Communist Party chief, left here after a three-day visit during which he met with his Polish counterpart, General Jaruzelski.

Last shave

Palermo (AP) - Two gunmen shot and killed Giacomo Misseri, aged 33 while he was having a shave at a barber shop in this Mafia stronghold. His brother was killed last November.

Afghans to form government in exile

From John Earle, Rome

Representatives of three of the main Afghan resistance movements decided at a four-day meeting in Rome, sponsored by the exiled King Zahir Shah, to unite their efforts and work for the formation of a government in exile.

Mr Assef Homayon, who coordinated the meeting held in a hotel, said yesterday that it was attended by representatives of three of the seven guerrilla movements. The king, who

lives in Rome, was not present but afterwards they called on him to inform him of their discussions. According to Mr Homayon, the king told them that he did not intend to be head of any future organization, but considered himself to be a unifying element.

The three groups planned to convene soon what Mr Homayon described as a constituent assembly for a new unitary organization, which

would discuss the possibility of forming a government in exile representing all resistance forces.

In a message a few weeks ago, the King called on Afghans to unite and form one movement capable of coordinating military action against the Soviet forces and of obtaining international recognition. Mr Homayon gave no explanation for the absence of representatives from other groups.

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SPECTRUM

THE TIMES One of the world's poorest countries has become a chessboard where pieces are moved by powerful outside players. The 16-year-old civil war - an intricate and shifting patchwork of tribal and personal rivalries - now threatens to ignite fighting between the French and Libyan armies. The United States and anti-Libyan African countries wait in the wings

THE COUNTRY

Hole in the heart of Africa

Chad is an area of land which has never formed itself into an effective state and now barely counts as one.

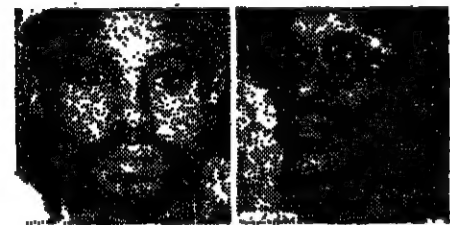
Physically, politically and economically it is a vacuum at the heart of Africa which must provide a constant temptation to meddle for any even mildly voracious regime in power in the surrounding nations.

From the rugged mountains of the far north it descends into the wastes of the Sahara desert before, from about the 16th parallel beginning gradually to emerge into savannah.

The north is very thinly populated. Covering roughly half the area of the country, it contains only a little more than 2 per cent of the population, perhaps 80,000 people. They are almost entirely nomadic Muslims.

The south is largely populated by the Sara people, of Bantu stock. They have a much more settled way of life, and having access to virtually the only arable land in the country, they produce the two main cash crops of cotton and groundnuts. They are predominantly either Christian or animist.

The unmetalled roads which link north with south are primarily the product of a bitter and divisive past, for until slavery was stamped out by the French they were essentially arteries for northern slave-traders to descend on the tribes of the south.



Habré Goukouni

Almost no working institutions of government link these two halves of a nation created by the draughtsman who arranged the map of Africa in the wake of the departing European colonial powers. The banking system has collapsed and earlier this year the Government announced a moratorium on its debts of \$75m.

But according to World Bank statistics Chad is one of ten nations which have failed to achieve positive growth in their gross national product since 1960. And with a 2.2 per cent per capita annual average rate of decline, its record is the worst in the world.

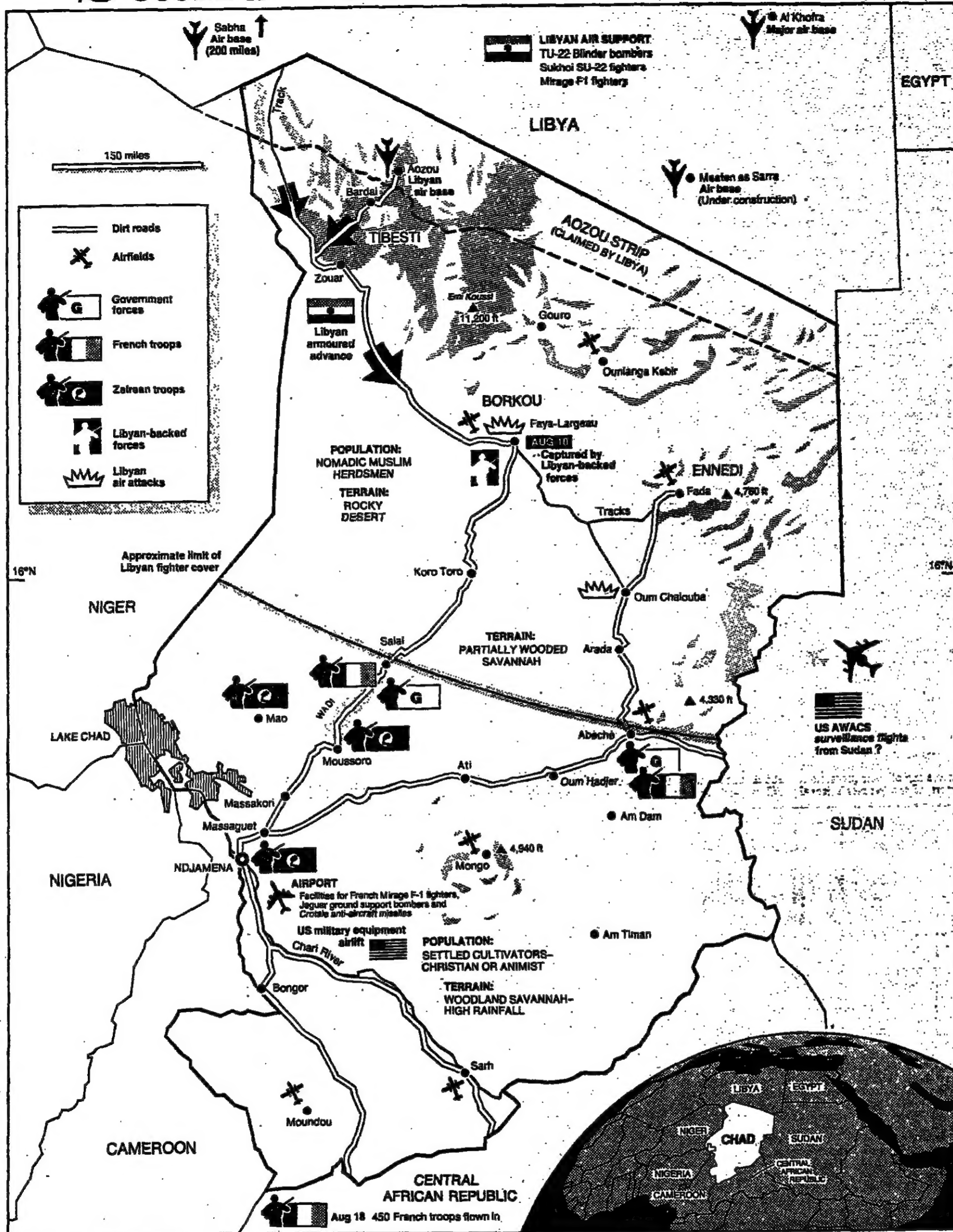
New divisions have now arisen with the people of the north resenting the greater resources and wealth of the south. Despite this, the present struggle for power, which continues 16 years of endemic internecine warfare, is not essentially between north and south, but between two northern leaders.

These are Hissene Habré, who emerged in the mid-1970s leading northern forces in resisting the anti-Muslim tendencies of the then-government, and Goukouni Oueddei, whom he displaced as president last year. Goukouni is a son of the spiritual leader of the Toubou, the main northern tribe.

For a time they worked together in the Chad government in 1979 with Goukouni as president and Habré as defence minister. This ended with Goukouni claiming that Habré was trying to seize power with French support.

Although Libyan attitudes have wavered from time to time, it has largely, as now, supported Goukouni. Its attitude seems mainly to have been determined by the posture of the contestants in relation to Libya's claim to sovereignty over the Aozou Strip in the north, which is believed to contain uranium and other minerals, and which it has effectively controlled for a decade.

Stand-off in the desert



FACTS ON CHAD

Land area: Chad occupies an area of 490,000 square miles, which makes it about five times as large as the United Kingdom, almost ten times the size of England and more than twice as large as France. It is the largest country to emerge from the break-up of French Equatorial Africa.

Population: It is estimated to number about 4,500,000 people. These are heavily concentrated in the south, with the northern half having a population of only about 88,000.

Economy: According to World Bank statistics it had a per capita income in 1981 of \$110, which ranks it among the

three or four poorest countries in the world.

Life expectancy: Its population at birth has a life expectancy of only 43 years, which is low even by the standards of the poorest nations.

Food: The average daily supply of calories per head is put at only about three quarters of the estimated requirement, and, by contrast, is only half that available in Libya.

Education: Only about 15 per cent of adults are literate, which is again among the lowest levels in the world.

Health: World Bank statistics show that there is only one doctor for every 47,000 members of the population.

Brief recent history: Having been part of French Equatorial Africa, Chad gained its independence in August 1960 with Nguire Tombalbaye as its first president. For four years after independence the three northern regions of Borkou, Ennedi and Tibesti remained under French military administration.

● In 1965 rebellion broke out following the imposition of an obligatory "national loan". Since then there have been few periods of peace.

● In 1973 Libya occupied the Aozou strip which is believed to contain deposits of uranium and manganese. In 1975 Tombalbaye was killed during a military coup.

● In 1980 civil war broke out. Despite efforts by the Organization of African Unity to stabilize the situation, President Goukouni signed a treaty of friendship with Libya and this led to up to 10,000 Libyan and Islamic Legion forces entering Chad, and Hissene Habré, who had been challenging the government was defeated.

● In 1981 President Goukouni signed an agreement with Libya for a gradual merger of the two countries. This was never put into effect, but Libyan troops remained in Chad until the arrival of an OAU peace-keeping force.

Text: Rodney Cowton
Illustration: John Grimwade

THE WAR

Everything hangs on Gadafi

The present military position in Chad, as shown on the map, has come about after months of extremely fluid fighting.

The story is seen in western military circles as being one of a forces of President Habré and of Goukouni Oueddei taking it in turns to over-reach themselves.

Accurate information about the fighting is scarce, but the pattern of events seems to have been that the forces of President Habré suffered a heavy defeat on about February 23 after attacking Goukouni on the fringe of the Aozou Strip, which he was intent on recovering from the Libyans.

This led to Habré's forces falling back over 400 miles to beyond Abéché, which was occupied by Goukouni's troops in early July. On July 10, Habré got behind Goukouni to recapture Oum Chalouba and, the next day, Abéché.

Goukouni then fell back on Faya-Largeau where he was driven out on July 30, only to recapture it on August 10 in a battle which was dominated by Libyan forces.

Now President Habré's forces, together with about 1,000 French paratroops, sent by President Mitterrand technically there as advisers, and also perhaps up to 2,700 soldiers from President Mobutu's Zaire, have taken up defensive positions based on



Mitterrand Mobutu

Abéché, Salal, Moussoro and Mao. This may hold out the possibility of a stalemate, though much will turn on the policies of President Gadafi and his Libyan forces. An important factor in the fighting this month has been the bombing of Faya-Largeau and other centres of population (most of them merely collections of mud huts at oases) using Russian-built TU-22 Blinder bombers operating from Libya.

These bombers have operated under cover of fighters, such as the Russian SU-22 Fitter and the Mirage F-1, but in the absence of forward air bases, Salal and Abéché are at the extreme limit of the range of these fighters.

The question now is whether the Libyan forces will attack Salal and Abéché, which would be expected to bring them into conflict with the French paratroops for the first time.

The position seems to be that it is essentially a Libyan decision, for the forces of Goukouni are thought to have been worn out by the fighting since February.

Although the Libyan aid to Goukouni originally took the form of men of the irregular Pan-African or Islamic Legion, it is thought that up to 5,000 regular Libyan troops have been in Chad since early this month. There have been reports that the Libyans may have with them as many as 500 tanks, but in European capitals this is thought to be an over-estimate, with the actual number being probably nearer to 100.

Any Libyan advance south will have to be confined to the two roads through Salal and Abéché, because the intervening terrain is unsuitable for modern mechanized forces. For the defending government and French forces it will be a prime aim to hold the important road junction at Abéché.

South of Salal the road passes through the wadi-Bahr-el Ghazal which probably constitutes the best defensive feature available.

moreover... Miles Kington

Good news, there's been a disaster

Evelyn Waugh once complained that the standard of book reviewing was slipping badly. In my young days, he sighed, we never gave a bad review to a book we had not read; nowadays they are breaking even that simple little rule.

And Richard Ingrams, I am afraid to say, is now breaking that rule in the field of television, giving the thumbs down in the *Spectator* (my favourite weekly) to the conversation between John Stonehouse and Anthony Clare, even though he blithely admitted not having seen the programme. I did not see the programme either, so I am sure it was excellent, if a little inconclusive.

But Richard Ingrams promptly made amends by attacking the level of violence in

TV news, which seems to feed off pictures and reports of crashes, disasters, bloodbaths, corpses and drownings. I agree entirely. He objected to the violence; I object almost more to the unnewsworthiness of it. Sudden death is horribly important to those concerned - friends, relatives, neighbours - but horribly unimportant to the rest of us. If half a dozen people are swept to their death by an Irish wave, or burnt in a Paris dance hall, or killed in a Spanish coach crash, the only interest we can possibly have is a remote voyeuristic one. Yet such "news" items are regularly given the number two or three position on news programmes.

A few months ago I met a BBC cameraman who had been working in a regional centre and

been sent to cover a huge fire, of a factory, I believe. The pictures were dramatic and unusually detailed, he said. They had been offered to BBC news in London. Had anyone died? they wanted to know. No, came the answer. Not interested, said London.

Another unwelcome development on the news is the increasing interest in filming mourning relatives at funerals - widows are great and children are even better. After a token shot of the coffin or casket, the camera zooms in on the suffering faces of the nearest and dearest and stays there implacably, as if to make amends for not being there when the victim himself died. Lovely stuff. But news?

I must admit that I am committing Ingrams's sin here.

I have not seen the programme concerned. In the last ten years I cannot recall having switched on the TV news more than three or four times, and I cannot believe that my life is any poorer for it; TV news seems to me to have all the impact of reading the headlines of a better class provincial evening paper. It does very little better than radio and a lot far worse, and none of my occasional dippings has made me change my mind.

Still, we never get anywhere by moralistic sounding off, so I have a concrete suggestion to make. Instead of mixing up death and violence with the real news, why not give them their own regular programmes? Why not start a weekly or even daily feature called *Private Funeral*, for which BBC and ITV

cameras could film grief and distress to their heart's content, and to which those of us who love such things could turn without having to watch boring reports from Nicaragua and Chad?

The real violence and disaster could easily be given an evening slot as well, perhaps in a feature called *Blood and Guts*, where the apparent public taste for carnage could be satisfied with out anyone having to pretend it was "news". Here fuller treatment could be given to those disasters which the media love, especially coachloads of happy children who set out on a holiday and meet a terrible fate on a French motorway, where newspapers normally signal with the headline: "The Village that Died".

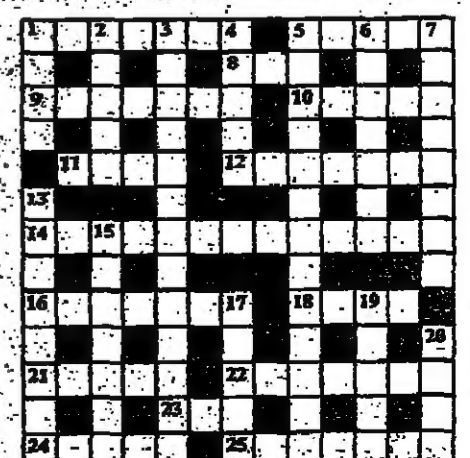
In fact - and I think this is a natural BBC idea - why not send a camera crew to go with a coachload of happy holiday-makers and arrange a spectacular crash to be filmed specially for television? This style of fictional documentary is becoming very popular, and it is about time we made a proper job of the disasters we love so much, instead of arriving there hours afterwards.

In some quarters this might be called bad taste. For my own part, I see it only as a natural development of current TV news. If paying people to die is bad taste, then it is not much worse than insisting we pay a licence to watch death on the news every night.

CONCISE CROSSWORD (No 129)

ACROSS
1 Scoundrel (7)
5 Indian river (4)
6 Tavern (3)
9 Vial substance (7)
10 Pansy violet (3)
11 Adriatic wind (4)
12 Moslem veil (7)
14 Difficult phrase (13)
16 Quodlibet (7)
18 Adjoin (4)
21 Fine-netting (5)
22 Prominent (7)
23 Religious (3)
24 Attack (5)
25 Moving rhythmically (7)

DOWN
1 Owl team (4)
2 Pious from plate (5)
3 Appointments (13)
4 Dork (3)
5 Careful inquiry (15)
6 Entrance carpet (7)
7 Shiden (8)
13 High heel (6)
15 Confound (7)
17 Use up (5)
19 Wounds (5)
20 Men's party (4)



SOLUTION TO No 128
ACROSS: 1 Upkeep 5 Swift 8 Hum 9 Cinema 10 Aching 11 Rain 12 Temple 13 Emblem 15 Pansy 17 Vermin 20 Even 22 Staple 23 Enemy 24 Pin 25 Fendish 26 Taster
DOWN: 2 Fudge 3 Eternal 4 Phantom 5 Saviour 6 Royal 7 Fantastic 14 Maestro 15 Present 16 Unleash 18 Rapid 19 Crepe 21 Eagle
(Solution to No 129 on Monday) Recommended dictionary is the Collins New Concise

Rodney Cowton reports on the latest naval star at Dartmouth... a Wren

Down to the sea in skirts

Another bastion of male excellence and supremacy has fallen to John Knox's monstrous regiment.

At the Britannia Royal Naval College at Dartmouth, home of all that is best and brightest in naval tradition, a woman has for the first time carried off one of the top awards. At the end of July, Sarah Kahn, 23, alumnus of Cheshire Girls' Grammar School and Durham University, emerged as top cadet in competition with about 80 men and 13 other women who were in their first term at Dartmouth.

She won the Rowallan Trophy, which is awarded to the officer under training who displays the greatest leadership potential in his or her first term. Not only that, but she clearly did it with style, for she also won the Pauline Doyle Trophy which is awarded to the officer cadet of the Women's Royal Naval Service "showing the greatest prowess in parade ground training without losing her femininity". By "prowess in parade ground training" is meant the sergeant-major role of commanding a squad at square-bashing.

For the WRNS cadets, their first term at Dartmouth is also their last. They tend to be a few years older than the men at the college, mainly either from university or after serving in the ranks. Whereas the men will complete up to three terms, the women take up their first postings in the Royal Navy proper after one term - though not at sea. That remains a male preserve.

Sarah Kahn has emerged not merely as Third Officer Kahn, WRNS, but also with the awesome power (as the Americans say) to request that Tower Bridge be opened and closed, and with the thought that if her request is not met, Her Majesty's Royal of Admiralty may well want to know the reason why. For in her first posting, which she takes up in October, she becomes Assistant Naval Liaison Officer in London. In that role she will be responsible for looking after the arrangements for the 30 to 40 British and foreign naval ships which visit London every year. Among other

things this will mean ensuring that Tower Bridge is raised when one of these vessels needs to pass through.

Sarah Kahn is just one of a number of women making an impact in the services. On August 1 *The Times* recorded that Lieutenant Jan Harper had emerged, at the top of a basically masculine course for young officers in the Corps of Royal Engineers. Nine months ago Group Captain Joan Hopkins was appointed as the first woman commander of an RAF operational station, with responsibility for the air defence of a third of the United Kingdom.

Earlier this year Squadron Leader Brenda Palmer became the first female Senior Air Traffic Control Officer at a major flying station, RAF Wittering in Cambridgeshire. Last Year Captain Marion Randall came top of an officer's course in the Royal Army Ordnance Corps.

In Second Lieutenant Sarah May, the Army has the first woman platoon commander of male Royal Army Ordnance Corps recruits undergoing basic training (square bashing again). At Portland in Dorset in the headquarters of the Flag Officer Sea Training, the operations room has an entirely female watchkeeping team, made up of four WRNS officers and four leading Wrens.

Meanwhile, back at base in Whitehall there is Second Officer Penny Melville-Brown, who in 1981 was the first WRNS officer to come top of the mixed junior staff course at the Royal Naval College at Greenwich.

Notwithstanding any impression that may be created by these examples, they are exceptions to the basic rule that the environment of the armed services is determined by male, with the RAF having perhaps achieved the greatest integration of women. Pregnancy remains a phenomenon which none of the services finds easy to accommodate.

An interesting test of the service's attitude to women could arise quite soon. At the top of their profession, as directors of the Women's Royal



Sarah Kahn: the latest woman to make an impact in the armed forces

Army Corps and the Women's Royal Air Force are Brigadier Helen Meechie and Air Commodore Helen Renton.

After one year as director, Brigadier Meechie is still only 45, and Air Commodore Renton is only 52 after more than three years in the post. Normally appointments at this level are not held for more than about three years, and these two officers are young enough to have

the possibility of one or more further appointments before they reach the retiring age of 55.

But they cannot go further in the women's branches. The question is whether the services will break new ground by offering them senior appointments outside the female confines. Whatever happens, traditionalists may take comfort from the fact that there remain obstacles to the rise of military women.

At the Royal Military Academy at Sandhurst the men will shortly be joined by women, though there will be only a limited measure of integration, mainly in the academic side of training. Women will have a place in the passing out parade, however, though only in part of it, for the width of their skirts limits the size of their stride and prevents them keeping pace with the men's brisk marching.

One happy family, isn't it, Sister?

COMMENT

You want an accident in Windsor, said the mini-cab driver by way of light conversation: have it between nine and five and reckon on surviving the trip to Slough. Time was, King Edward's would have seen you all right. Now it's falling apart. You're better off in Princess Margaret, he said. He takes them all home after Princess Margaret. Princess Margaret gives them a good time.

American Medical International Inc. of which the Princess Margaret Hospital, Windsor, is one of 10 British subsidiaries, is raking it in, and in 1982 showed a 55 per cent increase in net income, with suitably buoyant dividends for its shareholders. But let there be no misunderstanding. The Princess Margaret director is 29 years old, a tone poem in shades of grey who says "welcome to our little house on the prairie" and explains that he moved from accountancy to medicine because he prefers "the people angle to the numbers game".

No profit motives here. Absolutely not. They merely want to take the pressure off the National Health Service while providing each individual customer - or - patient with the best possible service - or - care and attention. Such imperative formalities out of the way, Sister says ahead to a jolly notice that says "No Smoking, lungs at work", and a wisp falls into the sweet sherry.

All very cosy. Understated as the many beiges of reception, soft-lit by myriad glass ceiling nipples against the harsh light of midday. A bentwood hatless hatstand, a scrap of leafery and an early 1960s portrait of Princess Margaret herself who declared her namesake well and truly aloof in 1980.

One big happy family is the theme. None of your health service hierarchic separatism hereabouts; Christian names all round and you even get to speak to the consultants, who are all called mister.

So here is the path lab, and there the X-ray machine, and in here is a machine to take a picture of your baby in the womb, which makes a lovely gift for mums to start their albums with. And here is our pharmacy and there is a theatre and there is another theatre and here is the delivery room and here is our colposcope, which explores some- thing very modern in the uterus, we are specially proud of our colposcope, and this is a room and that is its bathroom en suite with lavatory decontaminated and sealed to prevent cross-infections so safe in the public sector.

And in this beige folder you will find our 14-day cycle menus. Scampi mornay, filet mignon, courgettes provencale, chicken bas-

quaise, that sort of fare. Good food aids recovery, is the idea.

Brand loyalty has spread to the patients. In room 214, Mrs Unwin presses a bedside button and her lacy torso rises magnificently to attention. "Wonderful!" she says, either of the electronics or her nearly healed abdomen. But we were all so upset when Mrs Thatcher took her health insurance scheme, she found herself in a public ward with 60 other people and the whole place reminded her of a scene from a war disaster movie.

Well, anybody would. The last time something went wrong with Mrs Unwin, before she went on the health insurance scheme, she found herself in a public ward with 60 other people and the whole place reminded her of a scene from a war disaster movie.

On the floor above, a tastefully tattooed young man takes over the commercial. He wishes it to be known that he is "very impressed". It's not like they're doing a job, he explained, it's more like a service, like in an hotel. He'd had to wait six months to have his tonsils out on the NHS, and, when he got in, there were no curtains at the windows and great lumps of plaster were hanging off the walls. Look, he says, what it all boils down to is I don't want to walk through corridors and have to see a lot of drips going in people. I don't want to mingle with the dying. It's depressing. Yeah, his wife said. It makes you feel sorry for them. Makes you feel you ought to go and put up pretty curtains for them.

The marketing director was especially pleased I'd met a milkman's wife on my rounds. It went to prove the Princess Margaret was not just for the idle rich. Three years ago only 7 per cent of Windsor possessed such prudence. Now, she said modestly, it had gone up to 14 per cent. However, there are beds lying empty in Princess Margaret, so much, much more marketing is required. Here is our physiotherapy department, we have a doctor in the house 24 hours a day, and over there's the delivery room and everywhere there are carpets, which is why it's all so quiet and peaceful. Except for the hammering and banging out back. That's for an extension. You won't find too many of those in the public sector either.

Sally Vincent

On Monday
Monkey business
in Spectrum

I've been left holding the baby

FIRST PERSON

"She combines motherhood with a successful career as a barrister". "She manages to combine her computer business with bringing up four children". "She manages to do the housework and occasionally visits friends as well as copes with two children". I will give a prize of one baby wipe to the person who guesses correctly which of the above descriptions fits me.

How do they do it? I was certainly a reasonably successful career girl before I married, but that all went out the window when my first son manifested his existence. My pregnancy was so horribly sickly that working in an office would have been impossible. I used to lie on the bed trying to focus on a single paragraph of a book for hours. When the baby arrived, my clear duty was to breast-feed him. Oh Well, thought I, with feeds every four hours there

will still be plenty of time for other things. My babies, however, are obsessive feeders. They feed practically for four hours at a time and carry on like that for months. I spent the first 16 months of my first child's life wearing clothes that buttoned down the front.

At 18 months my son started at a playgroup and I then spent these mornings a week sitting in a school hall, drinking coffee and comparing my child with other grubby infants, trying to convince myself that he was more intelligent. When he was old enough to be left and, later, when he went to nursery school, I indulged in hectic, clock-watching shopping trips, dreading long queues at the supermarket.

When my son started at "big school" friends assumed that I

would have plenty of free time. It was a strange assumption. I had by then endured a miscarriage, another grisly pregnancy and the first few months of another lively son. Taking and collecting my older boy meant a daily round of assembling outdoor clothes, checking school uniform and trying to make sure that the baby had had at least half a feed before each expedition. There was simply no time for me to pursue a career even if I had wanted to. Within a few months my baby son will be going to a playgroup - if I can find the time to take him - and life will become even more hectic. After that, no doubt, there will be Cub Scouts or Boys' Brigade for the older boy and school for the younger.

I have come to the conclusion that the only way in which one can

combine a job and a young family is to have a mother or mother-in-law who is fit and capable and lives near by. Otherwise there is the possibility of employing a nanny or child minder. A nanny costs money and needs to be accommodated and somehow I have never wanted to entrust my offspring to a child-minder, however capable. I think I should worry myself silly, wondering whether they had climbed out of an upstairs window or gone home when the child-minder is looking uniform and trying to make sure the other way. Even if one does employ a child-minder, one's income at least has to cover the cost. I suppose I shall have to resign myself to motherhood alone. As I write this (mercifully short) article, the baby is gleefully emptying my desk drawers, so combining it with writing is out, too.

Margery Roberts

MEDICAL BRIEFING

Curing insomnia and the nightmares

Nightmares seem to be an unfair price to pay for high blood pressure or angina but some drugs prescribed to susceptible people to control these can lead to

miserable, disturbed nights. Many doctors and patients have been aware for some years of this unpleasant side-effect of beta-blockers, as they are called, but recent work in Birmingham by Dr Tim Beis and Chris Alford have shown some surprising differences between two different groups of the drugs.

Working with 10 healthy young people they compared the effects of four different drugs - atenolol, propranolol, metoprolol and pindolol - on patterns of sleep. The last three, with chemical structures which give them an affinity to fats, tended to cause disturbed nights while the first one, with a different chemical structure, left little impression.

Beta-blockers are now prescribed for migraines and insomnia. It seems that propranolol and associated are more likely to be successful for these problems. The reason is linked with the nightmares: these drugs have an affinity to fats, they can more easily seep into the central nervous system (which is protected by a fatty layer) and so have a direct effect on the brain.

Buried danger

If you go down to the sea for the bank holiday weekend, beware the lesser weaver fish. Usually between four and five inches long, it half buries itself in sand. If you accidentally tread on one of its poisonous spines you will soon know about it.

The venom is not dangerous, but for some people the pain can be agonizing. Each summer hundreds

of bathers become victims and need medical help.

An article in the British Medical Journal a couple of weeks ago suggested some remedies for the pain, though it was pointed out that even some strong pain killers are not always effective. Since then doctors have written to the journal about their own remedies. Cornish GPs seem to have the most experience of dealing with weaver fish stings and in the letters column this week hot water is put forward as the most popular remedy.

Running cost

The catalogue of illness and injury among athletes at the last week's world championships in Helsinki has heightened fears that modern sportsman and women may be training too hard for their own good. American 100 metre hopeful Evelyn Ashford's tragic fall in the final, and Cuban Alberto Juantorena's broken ankle add physical pounding athletics force their bodies to endure is now so great that muscle tears and stress fractures result.

Britain's Sebastian Coe didn't even make the games. He was stricken by a mystery virus. But, experts are now suggesting that illness, too, may be the consequence of over training. Could it be that the stresses of training and competition depress the immune system, leaving athletes prone to infection?

Dr Lynn Fitzgerald, a research scientist in the department of immunology at St George's Hospital in London has been involved in one of the few studies of the effects of competitive sports on the immune system. She is herself a long distance runner and holds the women's world 100 mile, 100 km and 200 km records. With the help of medical colleagues she looked at the effect running had on herself and five fellow endurance runners.

Thankfully, she says, they found no dramatic deterioration in immune defences during a race. But she adds it appears that the runners were generally less resistant to disease during the training season. This could be explained by the extremely high levels of the stress hormone cortisol released by the athletes' bodies after a heavy training session or competition. Dr Fitzgerald now hopes to make further studies.

Rabies relief

Viewers of the recent BBC TV drama *The Mad Death* (a fictional account of a rabies epidemic in Britain) may rest a little easier in the knowledge that a safe and effective vaccine for the deadly disease is available, though an outbreak here would still be catastrophic. The original rabies vaccine, produced from the nervous tissue of infected animals was usually only used to treat the disease. Paradoxically, impurities in the preparation meant that the vaccine

could also cause nerve damage though not to the devastating extent of rabies itself.

Since then, however, the French vaccine manufacturers Institut Mérieux have perfected a way of growing rabies virus in human cells. Their vaccine can simply be injected into the arm because only small amounts are necessary and its lack of side effects means it can be used both as a prophylactic and treatment.

Travellers to areas of the world where rabies is rife, such as the Indian sub-continent, can ask their GPs to get a prophylactic course for them (two shots one month apart) from Serivier of Slough - they supply Institut Mérieux's product here. A course costs around £36. British Airways also provides a rabies vaccination service.

Pool rash

A new disinfectant used in public swimming pools may be giving swimmers a nasty rash. Most public baths in Britain are chlorinated to keep them safe, but in recent years a few have started to use a brominated disinfectant. Skin experts say the product which has two brand names, Di-halo and Aquabrome, may cause eczema.

Dr Richard Kycroft, consultant dermatologist at St John's Hospital for Diseases of the Skin in London, and Dr Philip Penny, medical adviser to the Amateur Swimming Association, have seen 48 people who developed skin trouble after swimming in pools where Di-halo was used. Dr Kycroft has also received eight independent reports of similar problems from other dermatologists. And a survey of swimming magazine readers unearthed a further 65 people who developed "more than just trivial" rashes.

Olivia Timbs and
Lorraine Fraser

THE TIMES Tomorrow

START THE WEEKEND WITH THE PAPER THAT INFORMS, STIMULATES, AMUSES AND PROVOKES

● DEATH BEHIND THE LINES: David Hewson on the secret courts martial of the First World War

● VILLAGE CRICKET: John Parker on the build-up to next week's final at Lord's

● TRAVEL: Journey of a Lifetime - Australia

● SPORT: The golden sportsmen - preview of the European Athletics Cup Final at Crystal Palace

● FAMILY MONEY: How to finance your own business

● A chance to win a Ford Sierra XR 4i

Plus

All the news from home and abroad; Values - the shopping delights of Hampstead and Highgate; Drink on the virtues of mineral water; Review - video cassettes of the month; preview of the best of the Edinburgh Festival; the top gardening column; bridge and chess; critics' choice of what's on at the cinema and on the stage

THE TIMES DIARY

Dash back

Jack Dash, the firebrand orator who led London dockers through many unofficial strikes, was in congenial surroundings this week, giving evidence against plans to redevelop the Free Trade Wharf site at Shadwell. The planning inquiry is being held in the lecture hall of the National Museum of Labour History, Limehouse, beneath dozens of banners bearing defiant slogans, once borne aloft by demonstrators. Dash supported the local protest group's complaint that the huge blocks of offices and flats planned would shut the river away from the people who worked on it. Dash, who worked 28 years in the docks, is now, at 75, a voluntary warden at an old people's home in Stepney.

Reeling on the isle

The Hebrides are agog to see who will partner Princess Margaret at the Skye Ball next month when she revives the claim of the Royal Hotel, Portree, to its title. The last leading royal to cut a caper there was Bonnie Prince Charlie, bidding Flora MacDonald farewell in 1746 after failing to dislodge Princess Margaret's ancestors. The Princess is officially in Skye to present the Queen's Award for Industry to Gaicteir, a canny technological outfit who put together transducers for heart pacemakers among the crofts.

Aping royalty

The royal family's enthusiasm for homeopathic remedies is shared by an even more closely knit group - a colony of American woolly monkeys at Leonard Williams' monkey sanctuary in Looe. Woolly monkeys are delicate, fastidious creatures who react badly to antibiotics and hate injections. Wedda, who supply the sanctuary with homeopathic medicines, think its health record should impress the BMA committee inquiring into alternative medicine. You cannot, they say, pull the wool over a woolly monkey's eyes.

● Jeremy Holt, of London, writes in to ask whether the hot weather is getting to people. He has just had a letter dated "15 Augst."

BARRY FANTONI



"The Minister's terribly excited. They've asked him on with Roland Rat."

Hot and bothered

The current hot weather has revealed how little we British know about wine, and how little our restaurateurs care. At the Four Seasons restaurant in Islington I was served Sancerre rouge at hot room temperature. It tasted sick and sweaty. "I know it should be chilled," said the proprietress, "but our customers do not like it like that." At the Brasserie St. Quentin, Brompton Road, despite a very French ambience, a request to cool overwarm red wine was greeted with reluctance and Gallic smirks, and at 192, Kensington Park Road, a partner in the business came to argue the test about my demand that a gently cooking claret be plunged in an ice-bucket. The final straw came at Carrier's, in Islington. "We do not chill any of the red wines - not even the beaujolais", I was told by a waiter who, again, knew they should. Such things never happened at Hintsbase Hall.

● A PHSpy noted a large party disembarking from a coach at the Salvation Army headquarters in Queen Victoria Street. On the back of the vehicle was the slogan: "You drink... We drive."

MOdicum

Chandrika Prasad Srivastava, secretary-general of the London-based International Maritime Organization, has an official black Dalmatian, with the registration 1 MO. The UN agency switched numbers last year, abandoning 1 MCO on changing its name from the Intergovernmental Maritime Consultative Organization. On writing to the Department of Transport for permission, IMO found that 1 MO had never been registered before, so they did not have to buy it. Tony Hill, whose Elite Registration deals in fancy plates, says 1 MO would have been worth about £8,000. If Chandrika Prasad Srivastava wanted 1 CPS, it would have cost him "about £3,200".

Not many of my readers count. This is a relief, since I can't either. Just two of you have written to point out that last Friday in this spot I called an octagon "six-sided". Robson Lowe, chairman of the philatelic sectioners at Christie's, was the kinder of the two about it. He tells me that 40 years ago a brother auctioneer described an Indian stamp as being cut sexagonally. Robson Lowe's retort was that the owner must have been a vet.

PHS

Edward Mortimer and Hazhir Teimourian on the coup in Iran 30 years ago today

From Mossadeq to Khomeini

"I owe my throne to God, my people, my army - and to you." With these words, according to Kermit Roosevelt, the Shah thanked him, and through him the Central Intelligence Agency to which he belonged, for its part in restoring him to power 30 years ago today.

Roosevelt's exploit, recounted in his book *Counterpoint*, has become the *locus classicus* of a CIA coup. It was also beyond doubt a turning point in the history of modern Iran.

Now that Iran is languishing under the gruesome medieval tyranny of Ayatollah Khomeini, it is hard to imagine the atmosphere which made Muhammad Mossadeq such a demonic figure for the British press and public of the early 1950s. Mossadeq was a secular nationalist who propounded for Iran the doctrine of "negative equilibrium". His argument was that in the past Iran had mortgaged its independence by trying to buy off the great powers with concessions ("positive equilibrium"). Instead it should safeguard independence by refusing concessions to all alike, and taking control of its own resources.

He was thus no less opposed to giving the Soviet Union an oil concession in the north than he was to the control of Iran's main exportable resource (the oil of Khuzestan, in the south) by the Anglo-Iranian Oil Company. But his refusal to compromise over the nationalization of AIOC (the forerunner of British Petroleum) won him the status of Britain's public enemy number one in the Middle East.

The septuagenarian, often bedridden figure, prone to burst into tears in the middle of his own speeches, was the constant butt of cartoonists and leader writers alike. He was, as *The Times* obituary recalled on his death 14 years later, "prime minister and near-dictator of Persia in the disastrous period, 1951-53... the passionately nationalist statesman who, with many eccentricities of manner and method, led his country to the repudiation of its agreement with the Anglo-Iranian Oil Company, and to the very verge of national ruin".

For the Shah too, Mossadeq was "an utterly irrational being" but also - however improbably - a British agent, whereas, according to Kermit Roosevelt, "Dr. Mossadeq had actually attempted to expel his monarch, replacing him with himself, and he had formed an alliance with the Soviet Union to achieve the result he wanted".

But for many Iranians today Mossadeq has become the symbol of an Iran that might have been and (since hope springs eternal) might yet be: modern and progressive yet independent of the West, proud of its national traditions yet free of fanaticism. Recently, when groups opposed to Khomeini came together

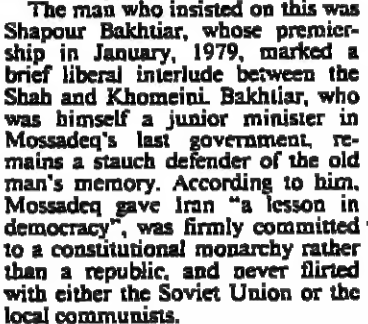
● McGraw Hill, 1979



The Shah, backed by Britain and the United States against Muhammad Mossadeq, right - and below, Churchill, the American agent Roosevelt, and the mullah who eventually overturned the western strategy, the Ayatollah Khomeini



The Shah, backed by Britain and the United States against Muhammad Mossadeq, right - and below, Churchill, the American agent Roosevelt, and the mullah who eventually overturned the western strategy, the Ayatollah Khomeini



The Shah, backed by Britain and the United States against Muhammad Mossadeq, right - and below, Churchill, the American agent Roosevelt, and the mullah who eventually overturned the western strategy, the Ayatollah Khomeini

was easily filled by increased production elsewhere. Refusing to be browbeaten, Mossadeq rejected US attempts at mediation, but inside Iran, with no oil revenues coming in, the situation inevitably degenerated.

By July, 1953, Mossadeq was at odds not only with the Shah but also with the traditional middle class, represented by the bazaar and the main religious leaders, both groups that had originally supported him. To overcome opposition from parliament (the majority of whose members were landlords, wealthy merchants or religious leaders) he resorted to a referendum without secret ballot.

The Times believed that this was the reason for the coup against him. ("The Shah, thanks to his western education, is a warm supporter of parliamentary institutions.") But in fact the planning for it was well advanced before the referendum. The initiative had come from Britain, where Churchill was by then in power, but the CIA had to take charge. Britain, having broken diplomatic relations, could no longer get its people into Iran.

The new Republican Administration in Washington eagerly agreed, although with different motives. According to Roosevelt, "the British motive was simply to recover the AIOC oil concession. We were not concerned with that but with the obvious threat of Russian takeover." That threat was not obvious to everyone. The Americans, then as now, were predisposed to see the hand of Moscow behind every step of both. They believed that Mossadeq, knowingly or otherwise, was playing into the hands of the Tudeh (communist) Party, which was closely aligned with Soviet interests.

It is true that the Tudeh grew stronger under Mossadeq's rule, and was allowed to carry on a strident campaign against the Shah and other powerful groups which were also opposed to Mossadeq. But when, after the first attempt at the coup had failed, Tudeh crowds poured into the streets, pulling down statues of the Shah, Mossadeq ordered the army to clear them out - thereby unwittingly facilitating the successful coup the following day.

If there was a conscious danger it arose from the chaotic internal situation in the country, which itself was caused largely by difficulties arising from the oil boycott. As in Chile 20 years later - and who knows, in Nicaragua tomorrow - the situation in which western countries felt obliged and entitled to intervene was one partly of their own making. The effect, while it may have encouraged Iran's economic development, was to distort its political development. In his determination to forestall another Mossadeq, the Shah prepared the ground for Khomeini.

● Albin Michel, Paris, 1982.

Charles McKean looks at the architectural contest with a difference

How a city shaped up to a thug and an aristocrat

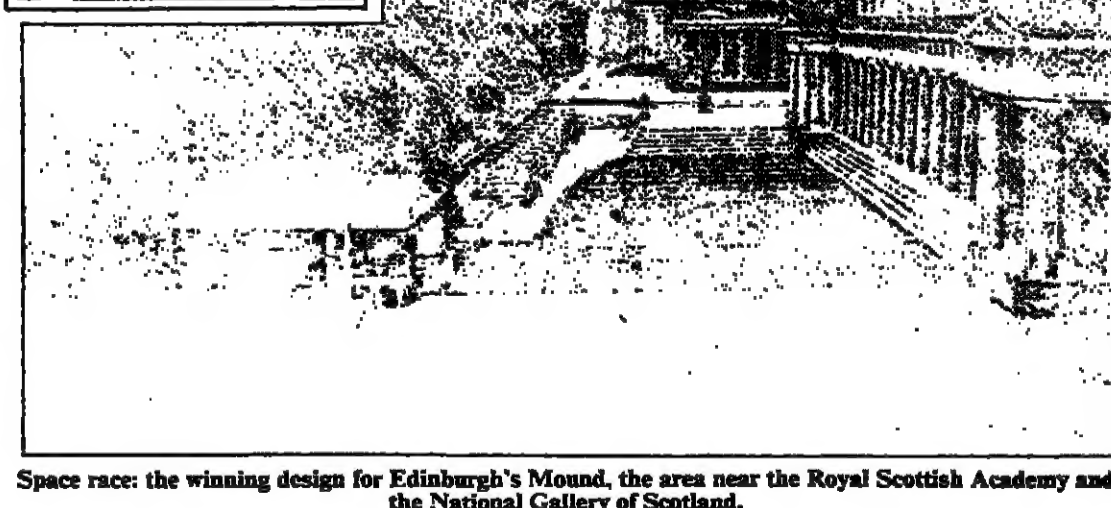
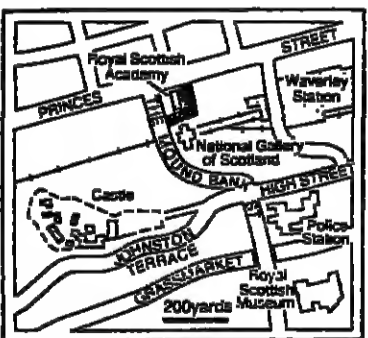
By any normal standards, the competition was a difficult one: the design of a major public meeting place in a setting of European importance - the Mound, in Edinburgh. Most design competitions for projects to be built are for buildings: rarely for the spaces between buildings. Indeed, for the last 100 years, the ancient importance of the public forum, amphitheatre or agora has been devalued to that grey and unspecific term "the public open space". Many competitors saw this contest as a way of redressing the balance.

The competition was for the transformation of the roadway that used to run alongside the Royal Scottish Academy (William Playfair, 1832) and thence between the RSA and the National Gallery of Scotland (Playfair, 1845). It had been determined that the road would be closed in any case; but the resulting discussions led to a realization that ever since the Quality Street Old Town (with its traditional meeting place at the market cross) for the New Town (with no meeting place at all) Edinburgh had been without a focus.

This site could provide that focus, but not without difficulty. First, it was L-shaped: second, it is rigidly defined on one side by a boundary governed by an Act of Parliament; and third - and possibly most important - the site is entirely dominated by the two great art galleries, which are neo-classical monuments of world class; the RSA is a gigantic, muscular, Doric thug, whereas its neighbour, the National Gallery of Scotland, is a refined, feminine Edinburgh aristocrat. Both buildings are overlooked by the craggy wall of the Royal Mile, and in turn look down upon Princes Street and the New Town. These constraints leave little chance for creative innovation.

Furthermore, whether competitors decided to do nothing, or the minimum, or produce a major building, all had to be contained within the budget of £500,000, barely more than that required to pave the sloping site in stone: a critical point, since the most imaginative schemes were those which exploited the changes in level.

Those who decided to submit a major building proposal had then to determine whether they respected the existing character of the site, or whether they fought it. One entrant



Space race: the winning design for Edinburgh's Mound, the area near the Royal Scottish Academy and the National Gallery of Scotland.

expressed his dissatisfaction with the project by entering a live scheme: the site plan was returned with the two galleries covered with uncooked pork chops, sausage and black puddings, with salad heaped between them. The panel members, while holding their noses (for this was an early entry, and by the time the technical assessment panel had reached it, the food had matured) concluded that the entry proposed to pile 30ft of garbage over the entire site: as such, it did not meet the competition conditions.

Submissions fell into three main groups: those who simply offered a landscape design; those who used water, or those who produced major building structures. The winning entries were all in the first category, of which more later. However, a significant number used water on the site to soften its hard, rectangular and Calvinist outlines. Such entries included ideas for fountains, waterfalls, streams, locks, curling ponds, skating ponds, ornamental gardens and winter gardens. Most were beautifully presented, but none avoided the difficulties of future maintenance, clearance of rubbish, and whether or not the presence of water might inhibit the use of those spaces for other purposes.

However, the winning student entry - commended for its sheer panache - proposed a loch running along the entire side of the Royal Scottish Academy, satisfying the requirement for access to load and unload drawings into the gallery by a service rail.

The final group of entrants were those who proposed major building structures, ranging from reproduction Palladian villas, ruined

grottoes, tents, gazebos, pergolas and high-tech metal structures to underground glazed-roofed shelters. The jury was convinced by none of these, since for the entire scheme to remain within the budget, such structures would have to be completed in cheap materials requiring significant future maintenance. In any case, the neo-neo classical buildings rarely matched the quality of the existing ones on site.

The sponsors of the competition, the Property Services Agency and Lothian Regional Council (who together own the land), wanted to ensure that all possible opposition to the winning proposal should, as far as possible, have been eliminated in advance. So they appointed the Royal Incorporation of Architects in Scotland to act as agents to organize the competition, with the requirement that everybody with an interest in the site be consulted during the competition process, so as to avoid the possibility of the winner being opposed by the masses of classical conservationists. (The problems of the competition for the National Gallery extension in Trafalgar Square were very much in their minds.)

The method adopted was the organization of detailed technical assessment, before the jury meeting, the results of which were made available to the jury as guidance. The jury comprised Professor Sir Robert Grieve (former chairman of the Royal Fine Art Commission for Scotland), Professor Richard MacCormack (architect), and Alistair Moffat (arts correspondent, Scottish Television, and former director of the Edinburgh Festival Fringe).

They were unanimous in their choice of the winning scheme by Allies and Morrison, of London (Allies trained at Edinburgh University). The design consists of a few simple ideas: the ground level at Princes Street is carried up into the centre of the site, and paved in stone; then, to take account of the rising ground, there is a flight of steps up to a higher platform which runs between the Royal Scottish Academy and the National Gallery, which will be paved with granite setts. The eastern boundary of the site is determined by the Playfair steps, which, as a route, is now carried right down to Princes Street, ending up through a new, pedestrianized information kiosk.

Between this route and the lower square is space for a row of shops or booths, offering permanent accommodation for the current clutter of ice-cream vans etc. The scheme is austere and pure, yet it was Moffat's view that it offered a wide variety of opportunities for the performing arts and would be in great demand during the summer season.

All that remains now is for the promoters to take the scheme to the next stage, with a view to clearing outstanding permissions and beginning construction. Once built, it will no longer be difficult for people to name a meeting place when wishing to meet friends in Edinburgh: they will simply be able to say: "I'll meet you at the Mound".

● The Mound Competition Exhibition: Upper floor, Burtons, 81 Princes St, Edinburgh: Monday to Saturday 9 am - 5 pm, August 21 - September 10, 1983.

George Walden

Reagan should go Russian

Sociology - once defined as "the science of vehement obscurity" - has spread to foreign affairs. In international sociology, too, quasi-scientific jargon masks passionate partisanship. Instead of peer groups, we have nuclear equivalence, and countries are reduced to behavioural automata by doctrines of strategic determinism. Some international sociologists are of the adamant right, some of the hard left. In both cases, it is the human factor which is elided.

Take the arms reduction talks in Geneva. The arithmetic of the imbalance created by the Russians is persuasive. But there is a whole world above and beyond the nuclear facts of life. You do not have to be David Hume, or a philosopher at all, or particularly sceptical, to know that "facts" alone do not add up to much. Common sense tells us both that there can be no such thing as precise nuclear equivalence, and that there must be such a thing as a reliable sufficiency of weapons on either side.

We need a greater readiness to criticize pure military reason, and to illuminate the facts with a little historical imagination. May I therefore respectfully suggest that during the summer break President Reagan might lay aside for a moment his intelligence digests and ask the CIA to procure for him instead good English translations of three Russian masterpieces? The prose alone would be an exquisite relief from Intelligence-speak, and there could be no better briefing for an American president.

The first is Turgenev's *A Sportsman's Sketches*, the book that reportedly persuaded Alexander II to free the serfs in 1861. It explains a lot about the Russians, old and new. Though many of them lived and were battered like cattle until about a century ago, they are a very human lot. (Comparisons with *Uncle Tom's Cabin* are irresistible, but misleading.) Until very recently indeed, most were peasants. The national character is suspicious, boorish and overbearing. Russians can also be sentimental, melancholy, brilliantly original and highly cultivated.

Gogol's *Dead Souls* portrays the more negative types, and is ideal further reading for any negotiator. Chichikov, the anti-hero, declines to continue a game of chess with the cheat and bully, Nozdryov. "I haven't been cheating," protests Nozdryov, "and you can't refuse to go on. You must finish the game... I'll make you play! You may have missed up all the pieces, but I remember all the moves. We'll put them back as they were... No sir, you tell me straight, are you going to play or not?" said Nozdryov, advancing still closer. (A parable of recent superpower relations?)

Peasants - yes, but as Turgenev shows, with a streak of poetry, too. Bullies - certainly, but also, in another guise, permanent subversives. The hero of Dostoyevsky's *Man from Underground* asks perist-

ently awkward questions (what if two and two make five?), is not inclined to listen to the answers, and distrusts any social or scientific structure at which "...one cannot out one's tongue or make a long nose at on the sky". The Soviet public still read all this in their millions, a fact the President might remember when he despairs of Muscovite officialdom.

After reading more about the Russians, the President might like to meet one, or see the country. The most prominent recent American visitors to Moscow have been an 11-year-old girl and a 91-year-old diplomat (Averell Harriman). During my own 20 years in diplomacy (spent mainly on communist affairs), I do not recall a moment when the East-West cultural gap has been greater. We badly need to put the whole of our relations in a wider and deeper perspective. They are the ones with the rigid, one-dimensional world view. We are supposed to have a broader vision.

The state of Soviet studies in America is not encouraging. Few of the next generation of American experts seem likely to bring George Kennan's depth of historical reflection to the issues. Few too will have met many Russians, though many will have strong views on them. Arid specialization and ideological intensity make a perilous mixture.

I am not a faint-hearted European and I am not apologizing for Moscow. The point is not to melt the President's heart, or to pierce his political armour. Indeed in some areas closer acquaintance with *homo russicus* might lead one to take a tougher line. To get him out of Afghanistan, for example, you need not only some historical understanding of why he went there in the first place; but also to realize that there will be no negotiated withdrawal unless somebody sees to it that the resistance is properly armed. Nozdryov would understand that.

But Poland - "the worse, the better" would be the wrong motto. Uncontrolled *poussinisme* in Eastern Europe could be bad for both sides. We should think in national and historical, as well as ideological terms. Even a little peasant shrewdness could help.

Moralistic oratory and technocratic diplomacy are not enough. There is no substitute for statesmanship, and the demand for it is growing. Many sensible, competent and kind people in the West are worried as much by its absence as by the nuclear numbers game - which itself reflects the failure of diplomacy. But they want leadership, not a crusade.

Harold Macmillan was not much of a nuclear expert, or ideologue. But he knew his history, and the Russians, and helped Kennedy to get the Test Ban Treaty signed just 20 years ago. He also found time to read Tolstoy at No 10.

The author is Conservative MP for Buckingham, and a former Private Secretary to Lord Carrington.

Philip Howard

All hands to harvest the happy memories

The harvest truly is plentiful this year, but the labourers are few. Now that British farming is so thoroughly mechanized, there is no unskilled work left on the harvest field for unskilled visitors to do. We used to stook until quite recently up here in darkest Ayrshire. Then come out the next morning to observe with chagrin that the wind from the Atlantic had blown all the stooks down, and then start again and put them all up again. Back aches and hands sing with remembered thistles even to write it. Nostalgia, where are the harvests of yesterday?

After a week or two of that game, we pitchforked the sheaves on to carts, put them all back again when they coupled, and rode in triumph on top of the swaying load, back to the steepling, and forked all the sheaves up again into the shed.

Even after the combines had penetrated the hill farms up here, there were still bales to load and unload. We sweated gravy as the stack grew towards the roof of the barn, but when things grew too hot the elevator could always be relied on to break down. Now the mechanical bale-grabbers have arrived, and vast bales shaped like swiss rolls that no human, however willing can lift by hand. "Dry August and warm doth harvest no harm" rhymed Tom Tusser in *Five Hundred Points of Good Husbandry* in 1580. August is preternaturally warm and dry. The harvest looks quite good. But there is nothing that amateurs can do to help.

And now the polls even say that it is illegal for children to ride home on top of the loader bales, in the few farms that still build loads of old fashioned bales. There is an ancient pleasure gone.

Harvest home has been going on for a long time. And it is difficult not to feel that it has changed for the worse with the efficiency of mechanization, in the same way that it is difficult not to feel that the countryside has changed for the worse with the great prairies created by rooting out old hedges and ditches to accommodate the great machines. Your old harvest was the social and sociable event of the year, with the field full of helpers and spectators getting in the way, small boys with ambitious catapults waiting for the rabbits to make a break for it from the shrinking island of standing corn, old men reminiscing about heroic harvests of their youth, the professionals cutting by scythe and then binder drawn by horse or tractor and everyone else working. But you only have to look at the harvest paintings and

read the harvest poetry and memoirs to see there was a kind of joy in it.

The big machines have taken the backbreaking toil out of it and are far quicker and more efficient. But they have also taken away the sense of communal triumph in getting a roaring harvest home. The drivers of the combines and the trucks wear earphones playing continual pop.

But let us not repine or blub about the good old harvest days, chaps. New country skills are replacing the vanishing arts of stooking and scything, and building long and stacks that do not coup, and thatching. At the Dumfries and Lockerbie Agricultural Show last week, there was no sheath - crossing contest over a bar as in the pole vaults. But there was a large and popular class of tractor competitions in which the local boys drove monstrous machines around an obstacle course, picked up telegraph poles with their fork lifts as delicately as lesser men pick up chipolata sausages with a fork, backed between narrow gate posts, and deposited their loads without spilling a drop water from the milk churns balanced on their trailers. I made my excuses and did not have a go.

Farming will never be wholly mechanized as long as there are animals down on the farm. The new imported big breeds, the Limousins and Simmentals, and Charolais (famously called Charlies up here) made a noble show at Dumfries beside the local Galloways and Ayrshires. The hills are alive with the sound of bleating lambs for we have been spanning the flock, separating the lambs from their ewes and dipping the best ones primrose yellow for the markets.

Visiting townies overcome their modesty about lifting up the grotty tails of several hundred lambs to determine their sex: not always as obvious as you would imagine at that age. They call a rig (a male with only one testicle) a "chaser" up here, let his tail go as a badge of distinction and keep him as an energetic curiosity to encourage the pups in their work. One falls into the dipping tank in over-enthusiasm and comes out yellow. The Nottling Hill Beagles are always in the way, and majestically cursed.

Who was it who said that you cannot make a man by standing a sheep on its hind legs but by standing a flock of sheep in that position you can make a crowd of men? Compared with the flock of silly tourists on the London Underground, the wild sheep of darkest Ayrshire are civilized and sedate and bright yellow.



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THE SOVIET CHALLENGE: II

A major fallacy in Western assessments of Soviet intentions is to assume that the Soviet leaders are basically similar to politicians in any country. In Western democracies politicians come and go; the electorate prefers pragmatic government which benefits citizens as individuals rather than the enforcement of ideological solutions for the good of the state. In the USSR continuity of leadership is all-important. The legitimacy of the regime has no firmer foundation than the seizure of power in 1917 by a minority party which promised a glorious future for mankind after world communism was attained - an "inevitable process" which the party nonetheless had a duty to accelerate.

Individual Soviet leaders have been denounced - some even murdered - by those who took power from them. But Lenin, his body preserved in the Mausoleum on which his successors review their forces, lives on as the main inspiration of Soviet foreign policy. Previous leaders may have made mistakes, but the party and the doctrine must be regarded as infallible or six decades of Soviet rule and all the sufferings of the masses building socialism will have been in vain. Even if they have personal doubts about the wisdom of spreading their political system by all the means at their disposal, the men in the Kremlin dare not give expression to their misgivings for fear of losing power to their rivals.

Continuity is particularly noticeable in Soviet foreign policy. The imperialism of the Russian tsars has given way to a Soviet empire expanding under the guise of bringing socialism to the workers of the world. This is one aspect of their predecessors' rule which new leaders have not condemned. The same Khrushchev who de-Stalinized and freed thousands of political prisoners preserved Stalin's conquests, crushing the Hungarian rising and executing Prime Minister Imre Nagy for "treason". When he backed down in the Cuban crisis of 1962 he lost his post. The same Brezhnev who in the heyday of détente drank champagne with President Nixon and kissed President Carter presided

over the suppression of the Prague Spring, expanded Soviet influence in Third World countries with the help of Cuban forces, and ordered the invasion of Afghanistan.

The Andropov who is portrayed by some as a liberal intellectual pursuing a defensive foreign policy was himself in Hungary helping to suppress the 1956 rising and as head of the KGB from 1967 played a central role in the Brezhnev strategies of internal repression and foreign expansion which continue today under his own leadership. The head of the Central Committee International Department, Boris Ponomarev, and the Foreign Minister, Andrei Gromyko, both have decades of experience, uninterrupted since they began their careers under Stalin.

The present Soviet leaders have caused too much misery to be described as good men; yet their misdeeds stem not from personal wickedness, but from their obedience to a system unrestrained by popular control, a system which has brought them honours and privileges. They are not the men to renounce the beliefs of a lifetime or to recant on their aims of achieving world communism under Moscow control. The younger careerists who hope to become the leaders of tomorrow provide the information and advice which conform to the Kremlin world view, not original ideas about reaching a peaceful compromise with the West.

It is not fully realised in the West that the Kremlin's unchanging and unquestioning hostility is not only directed at the negative side of life under capitalism but also at the positive freedoms and consumer delights which exercise such a dangerous fascination for those under communist rule. This is not the traditional threat of a hostile nation seeking self-aggrandisement, but the threat of a system which compels human beings to suppress their human qualities in the service of a political machine. Just as the democracies failed to believe that Hitler meant what he said until he proved it with Blitzkrieg and concentration camps, many now prefer to listen to what some smiling Soviet official tells

a Western journalist rather than believe the doctrine of the leaders themselves or the evidence of their own eyes.

They argue that Afghanistan was already a socialist country in the Soviet sphere of influence; that its people were very backward and will benefit from education in the USSR and other forms of fraternal help. They say that Nicaragua suffered under a brutal dictatorship and is better suited by Soviet-style socialist development than the evils of US economic exploitation. If Cuba too has political prisoners, they represent temporary sufferings on the path to a greater good. It is argued that one cannot make an omelette without breaking eggs. But the road to world communism is thick with broken eggshells and we have yet to see the first omelette.

The West cannot afford to wait for the next time Soviet strategists seize an opportunity to extend the "socialist community" - whether in Iran, Baluchistan, or elsewhere. A feeble reaction to the use of force is no deterrent to its use on another occasion. So far the West's response has generally been delayed, divided and ineffective, yet on the occasions in the past when governments have weighed the risks and opted for a firm stand, they succeeded in restraining the USSR. In 1946 after strong Western pressure Soviet troops withdrew from northern Iran, and the pseudo-autonomous Kurdish and Azerbaijani republics set up by Moscow collapsed. A firm line proved justified during the Berlin crisis of 1949 and the Cuban crisis of 1962. The West helped Tito counter Stalin's threat to Yugoslavia and more recently the promise of support encouraged Egypt and Somalia to reject the Soviet presence.

It is time to develop a coherent response to the Soviet challenge. Of course both sides must make every effort to scale down the monstrous weapons which threaten global destruction. But it is no less important to preserve those values of decency and freedom which further the best interests of people everywhere and in the long term hold most promise of a secure and productive peace.

Saving Mr Steel from his friends

From Mr Colin Darracott

Sir, Your report (August 17) that David Steel may resign the leadership of the Liberal Party if the constitutional amendment on control of the manifesto contents is passed by the Liberal Party Assembly quotes unnamed "friends" of his as evidence.

The media, and the party internally, have recently been awash with Mr Steel's "friends" and "enemies". Mr Steel's "friends" making allegations of this nature whenever these matters are discussed. They have preferred to take refuge in dark hints and veiled threats, rather than to honestly discuss the issues involved.

These issues, quite simply, are how a democratically-run party, the first to elect its leader by the votes of all members, shall arrive at the content of its manifesto. The effect of the amendment would give final authority to the standing committee of the party, of which the leader is a member.

Thus if the leader strongly disagrees with an item of party policy he would not be able to persuade the committee to omit it from a manifesto. If he could not, he would hardly be likely to be able to convince the electorate on the point.

But he would have to argue his case, be heard to argue, and give his reasons. Thus the rest of the party, while perhaps not agreeing with him, would at least know why he had taken a position.

This is very different from the present case, where policy on, for example, animal welfare and cruise missiles has been brushed aside apparently by personal dictation.

It would also spread responsibility for the manifesto's content, and spread the range of party opinion which contributes to it. This year, all the discontent about the programme for the recent general election has fallen on Mr Steel. If the whole of an elected body were involved that responsibility would be spread, and the main debate could be on issues and not personalities.

Those of us who support this amendment wish to openly debate the issues it raises. In the absence of any word from Mr Steel himself, his "enemies" would do well to join that debate and to abstain from childish threats.

Yours sincerely,
COLIN DARRACOTT, Chairman,
London Region Liberal Party,
The Liberal Centre,
30 St James Road, SE16.
August 17.

Doubts on new policy for the Rhine

From General Sir David Fraser

Sir, In your article, "Rethink on the Rhine" (August 17) you propose:

1. That the West German Army assume responsibility for the operational sector of Allied Command Central Europe now entrusted to the British Army.

2. That the British Corps in Northern Army Group should be "held as a tactical reserve" and should, in some way to be determined, be reduced in size.

3. That Headquarters, British Army of the Rhine, should be abolished "with further savings in headquarters costs", at least I think that is what you propose, in your reference to "no one-over-one relationship between HQ BAOR and HQ First British Corps", although since you link this point to the likely loss (under your policy) of Britain of the Northern Army Group Command - a completely different issue - the line of reasoning is unclear.

I believe the advantages you suggest for this sort of policy are illusory, while the difficulties are very real. You have referred to some of the latter but, I suggest, greatly underestimated them. To take a few headings:

Financial: You base your suggestions upon the need for savings. I doubt if you would achieve them. There would, under any version of your plan, have to be large-scale relocation of troops - presumably British and certainly German. The cost of this is likely to be immense; and it is a presumption of your proposition that Germany bear a larger part of this cost. But, leaving aside the dubious question of persuading the Federal Republic to view the cost to the British Defence budget would also be huge. I very much doubt if these capital costs could be balanced by any imaginary savings from a reduction in size of 1 (British) Corps.

Strategic: You refer to there being "no operational logic in the strategy of forward defence in West Germany, which is persisted with for political reasons, and you talk of the tactical rigidities imposed on NATO's military thinking by the forward defence strategy", and of the British Army "guarding every forward inch of a sixty-three kilometre front". If it really did so, it does not seem an immense price to pay for peace in Europe, but does *The Times* seriously believe that the West German population could be persuaded to pay for a defence

policy which did not assume forward defence of its territory?

Does *The Times* seriously contend that any Western European nation - or coalition - has the ability to trade space for time, and base its declared strategy thereon? Or that NATO could live with a military strategy so patently at odds with its political objectives? The "tactical rigidities" - and they are not as rigid as you suggest - are political realities. Of course they produce problems, but the problems are not insuperable.

Political: You argue the advantages of West Germany assuming a stronger military role. I believe you entirely underestimate the difficulties of this. Not least in Germany itself. But why do you suggest to your readers that the West German contribution is not already very strong? The Bundeswehr has four powerful Army Corps, a very large reserve, and - when I last compared the figures - more tanks than the German Army which invaded Russia in June, 1941. Talk of a "junior partner" (in terms of land forces, at least) is misleading.

Space prevents comment on the administrative implications of your proposals, but suffice it to say that all the national and logistic responsibilities of HQ BAOR could not possibly be discharged by the staff of a Forward Corps.

Finally, may I say that my own experience of NATO convinces me that any proposals on the lines you suggest would be regarded with astonished concern within the Alliance. The British Army of the Rhine - with much of it in the forward areas - is exactly that "evidence of commitment" without which no Continental alliance could endure, and no British participation be respected. You make much of "operational burden sharing", and in that connexion say that the British contribution should be concentrated in the maritime area. I agree - and it is. Virtually the entire Royal Navy is assigned to NATO - by far the largest European navy, and rightly so. Our contribution on land - one Corps of regular troops, from a nation of over sixty million people - is, believe me, not regarded by our allies as overwhelming in terms of size, but it is regarded as extremely important.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID FRASER,
Valence,
Isington,
Alton, Hampshire.
August 17.

Risks in new bread rules

From Dr Walter Yellowlees and others

Sir, We write to draw attention to the proposed new flour and bread regulations, particularly to the following two points:

1. Around 1935 the deficiencies of white flour were recognized. Regulations were passed making it mandatory to put back certain of the vital nutrients extracted during milling, eg, iron, calcium, thiamine and nicotinic acid. It is now proposed to abandon this requirement.

Either the Government was wrong then or it is wrong now. White bread is a staple of the poor. If the Government interferes with the nutritive value of the white loaf, it should be warned of the risk it takes with the health of the poor and elderly sections of the population.

It is known that the thiamine requirement is directly related to the carbohydrate intake: ie, Vitamin B1 is needed to cope with starch. David Turnham, a biochemist who has worked with the Department of Health, has said that 85 per cent of the elderly population will probably have a lower intake of thiamine than the DHSS recommended intake if thiamine is not replaced.

Doyle and Crawford have said that 62 per cent of the mothers in families they are investigating in Hackney will be at risk if thiamine is not replaced.

2. The proposed new regulations will allow bakers to manufacture a "wholemeal loaf" to which they have added the emulsifiers, oxidants, stabilizers, etc, at present allowed in the manufacture of white bread. By long tradition, and indeed by law, wholemeal bread has consisted of the ground-up wheat berry, yeast, salt and a little oil or fat, with caramel permitted.

If the large plant bakers now wish to cash in on the fashion for wholemeal bread, by all means let them. Additives and all. Far better people eat wholemeal bread with additives than white bread without additives. But they must not be allowed to call it "wholemeal". The public must be able to distinguish between a loaf which contains additives and one which does not.

The old bakers' term "wheatmeal" is due to be abolished under the new regulations. Why not present it to the plant bakers as a name for their new loaf? "Wheatmeal" for a wholemeal loaf with permitted additives. "Wholemeal" for the traditional wholemeal and nothing but the wholemeal?

The McCarrison Society is disquieted by the new proposals for two reasons: (1) the Ministry's manifest failure to recognize that the purpose of food is nutrition and that a staple food has a pivotal place in the building of healthy bodies; and (2) the unobtrusive way in which these proposals have been put forward, with opinion from the trade invited, but with no information at all issued by the Ministry to the public - who are, after all, those mainly concerned.

Yours faithfully,
WALTER YELLOWLEES,
President,
ANDREW STRIGNER, Chairman,
KENNETH BARTOLO, Editor,
The McCarrison Society,
76 Harley Street, W1.
August 17.

Cut in arts support

From Mr Denis Mahon, FBA

Sir, Mr Rupert Hambro justifiably argues (August 11) that in the present circumstances of stringency more should be done to enlist financial support for the arts from the private sector and points out that mere recommendations from the Government to this end fail to meet the case.

There were only two sentences relating to future arts policy in the Conservative manifesto issued in May. They were: "We shall keep up the level of Government support, including a fair share for the regions. We shall also examine ways of using the tax system to encourage further growth in private support for the arts and the heritage." Leaving aside any comments on the ways in which the first commitment might be reconciled with events during July, it is evident to many that the second commitment becomes all the more crucial just because of those events.

Unless something is actually achieved in the way of further fiscal incentives, exhortations are unlikely to prove really effective. But provided that genuine progress in this regard is seen to be made, then Mr Hambro's suggestion of a "well-conceived public relations campaign" would become extremely pertinent.

There have been certain indications that the new Arts Minister may have been thinking seriously along these lines. Many will hope that in the autumn he will do battle for, and deliver, the necessary prerequisites for a constructive policy designed to win from private sources much greater support in the future for the arts and the heritage.

Yours faithfully,
DENIS MAHON,
33 Cadogan Square, SW1.
August 11.

Luis Buñuel

From Professor Douglas Johnson

Sir, Father D. C. Barrett discusses the effect on the late Luis Buñuel of his Jesuit education (August 12).

Perhaps an indication is to be found in his often-repeated remark: "I am an atheist, thanks be to God".

Yours truly,
DOUGLAS JOHNSON,
4 Rue de la Cité,
35400 Saint Servan-sur-mer,
France.
August 14.

FIVE-YEAR RAILWAY TIMETABLE

Few commercial organizations of any size could have kept to a five year plan drawn up in 1978, nor would many care to publish such detailed plans now. Yet British Rail, as a state industry, was forced into this somewhat academic performance again yesterday. Its past efforts, as the Comptroller and Auditor General has pointed out, have made its commuter timetables seem a model of accuracy by comparison, not least because of the recession and strikes. It is just as hard for railway managers to monitor their complex and inter-linked mix of social and commercial businesses as it is for the Department of Transport.

Today British Rail is committed to forecasts for the year 1988, when it does not even know who will be its chairman next month, nor whether the government will approve important projects for main line electrification, let alone what schemes Whitehall advisers have in store for railway organization or for introducing private capital.

Under such conditions of uncertainty, it is hardly surprising that the Corporate Plan 1983-88 is little more than a discussion document and a

modest one at that. A further 17,000 jobs will go and labour productivity will rise by just 7 per cent. Of the two largest divisions required to run on commercial terms, freight is expected to meet its target but inter-city services on the other hand will only break even, though British Rail hopes that a study now under way will find the missing profits.

This package, while hardly dramatic, is both logical and credible. British Rail has made substantial strides recently in getting to grips with its problems and re-organizing its structure so as to give its managers realistic financial and operating targets. The Corporate Plan adds to this new realism by concentrating on cost savings without exaggerated hopes about an upturn in business.

There is still a lingering feeling at the back of many minds that the railways could do without massive subsidies if only they were run efficiently or that there is some magic way of transforming railway finances in much the same way as duty-free sales pay for the losses incurred in running airports. Real planning can only begin when it is acknowledged

that large parts of railways are uneconomic but essential to a pattern of living created over past decades.

Tight control of subsidies and the external financing limit remains the prime method of keeping pressure on British Rail to improve its efficiency. Subsidies should be as specific and detailed as possible. But there is also a strong case for experiments to introduce private capital and in particular some element of competition where possible to act as a monitor for British Rail's performance on finance and services and to help provide investment.

Important strategic changes, such as splitting off parts of the system or separating track from operations should certainly be considered. Private enterprise could help a more imaginative approach to property development on stations. If possible private concerns should be encouraged to run separable commercial lines, such as the new Victoria to Gatwick line and even to tender for subsidized routes. But such moves should concentrate on improving rather than sniping at the railway system.

Will know that they are an earnest of intention on the part of the political authorities; that they have some exemplary and educational effect; that they are powerless instantly to eradicate stubborn ways or instantly transform disparities into parties; and that to bite they need the tooth of enforcement.

Northern Ireland's Fair Employment Agency has reasonable powers of propagation, investigation of complaints, conciliation and ultimately enforcement through the courts. It also issues "equal opportunity" certificates to employers who satisfy its requirements, and the British government looks for the certificate in examining tenders for government contracts. Short Brothers have an agreement with the agency to take positive steps to encourage applications for vacancies by Roman Catholics (a result not easy to achieve in a factory sited in the heart of Protestant East Belfast). Fair-minded American legislators and executives should have no difficulty in concluding that, if the aeroplane's specifications, price and delivery are right, the labour practices that produced it need not be held against it.

Future of the Alliance

From Mr Peter Birkby

Sir, Philip Webster (article, August 10) seems to have been talking to people who see some sort of divergence between David Owen's views on candidate selection for the European elections and those of SDP members at grass roots level.

This is an analysis not borne out by my own experience. I believe that joint selection would be in the interests of neither the SDP nor the Liberal Party.

With joint selection the vast majority of candidates selected would be Liberals, not necessarily because they were the best candidates, rather because they had the backing of people whose party loyalties had developed over years and decades. Liberals would tend to vote for Liberals far more than Social Democrats would vote for Social Democrats.

The two suggested methods of joint selection would have the same results. If all members were invited to a meeting, Liberals would outnumber Social Democrats by an average of three to one, and unless the SDP candidate was head and shoulders above the rest the result would be a foregone conclusion.

If an electoral college was set up, so that equal numbers voted from each party, the result would be the same, due to the relative strength of party loyalties.

Most Liberals, I believe, accept these arguments only too well. When factions of the Liberal Party like the Association of Liberal Councillors, which was once so hostile to the SDP, suddenly reverse their positions, they let the cat out of the bag.

Those Social Democrats who favour a quick merger also realize the implications, and are prepared to pay the price. The vast majority of Social Democrats, however, I believe will not be prepared to pay the price and will say so loud and clear at the council in September.

To project an Alliance which is nothing more than an extended Liberal Party could mean that we all suffer the same fate as the Liberal Party of 1979.

Yours sincerely,
PETER BIRKBY,
32 Park Grove,
Bedfordshire.
West Yorkshire.
August 10.

Missing the point

From Squadron Leader R. G. Burr (Red)

Sir, An example of the type of notice referred to by Mr York in today's issue, (August 9) was an inscription which up until the formation of the NHS appeared chiselled into a stone band around a hospital on the edge of Clapham Common. It read: "The South London Hospital for Women Supported by Voluntary Contributions".

However, I noticed at some time after 1948, that the word "Women" had been removed and the word "for" had been extended by the addition of "merely", which saddened me somewhat.

Yours faithfully,
R. G. BURR,
7 The Slade,
Lamberhurst,
Kent.
August 9.

Buildings on the list

From Mr Richard J. Griffith

Sir, The remit of the new Historic Buildings Commission is wider than your editorial (August 11) suggests. Its principal task is "to secure the preservation of ancient monuments and historic buildings situated in England".

The 400 buildings directly in its care are only the tip of the iceberg; even if one added all grade 1 listed buildings they would together amount to fewer than 6,000 properties, or barely 2 per cent of all buildings over which there is statutory "heritage" control. That total is about 283,000 buildings and will soon be substantially increased by the survey now in progress. The commission can advise the Secretary of State on the administration of all these protected buildings.

Saving youth hostels

From Councillor L. J. F. Preddy

Sir, It is one of the present day ironies that in an age of increasing leisure time available, especially to young people, the Youth Hostels Association should be recording a decline in membership and overnight stays. This has reached the point where remote hostels are no longer economic and may have to be closed.

Whilst Youth Training Scheme labour can continue to be used for the maintenance of these hostels, more importantly the Government should be encouraged into introducing a scheme providing for the issue of vouchers to young people who

take part in the Youth Training Scheme for substantial reductions in the costs of overnight stays at hostels.

This could be introduced on either an individual or a team basis as part of a reward system. No doubt British Rail with their more flexible marketing policy could be associated with the scheme to provide reduced rate rail travel.

The primary objectives of the Youth Training Scheme would, therefore, be extended on a wider basis with wider benefits.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN PREDDY, Deputy Leader,
East Sussex County Council,
12/14 Broad Street,
Seaford, East Sussex.

Body and mind

From Dr Thomas Price

Sir, Your editorial of August 10 takes the medical profession to task for its alleged over-emphasis on high technology, high cost medicine.

Few doctors would dispute that the indiscriminate prescription of powerful and expensive drugs is an unsatisfactory practice. The alternative however is to utilise that even more costly and scarce resource - time.

We should all welcome the opportunity to spend more time with our patients but this may not be possible where revenue cuts and delays in appointing replacement staff have led to ever increasing waiting lists.

In the field of rheumatology,

chronic disease is the rule rather than the exception and time spent explaining the nature of their condition to patients is worth a thousand pills. There are still, however, sixty districts in this country which have no rheumatologist and around ten million people therefore who are denied the accurate diagnosis and skilled treatment that their ailments demand.

Your criticism should rather be directed at Government policies. Repeated cuts in expenditure are continuing to deny too many citizens the care and attention they deserve.

Yours faithfully,
THOMAS PRICE,
38 Flanders Road, W4.
August 12.

Engineering awards

From Dr G. B. R. Feilden, FRS

Sir, On behalf of the Fellowship of Engineering and the Commissioners of the 1851 Exhibition, I am preparing as comprehensive a list as possible of United Kingdom engineering awards. This will include medals, sponsorships, scholarships and exhibitions, studentships and fellowships, and prizes in every branch of engineering and related technologies.

The list will be published by the Fellowship as an indexed reference book in the autumn.

The list will contain the replies we have had from schools, colleges, universities, polytechnics, institutions and charitable trusts, as well as those from many firms manufacturing engineering products.

The sponsors of the list believe that it will fulfil a need in informing both those who are already in the engineering profession and those

contemplating entering it, of the immense range of awards which exist.

Yours faithfully,
ROBERT FEILDEN,
Greys End,
Rotherfield Greys,
Henley-on-Thames,
Oxfordshire.
August 9.

One swallow

From Mr David Lilley

Sir, "My father was so enchanted with it that he shot it" (August 10). What is one to make of this extraordinary statement - and of the act itself which deprived the bird of its life and the world at large of a "rare and lovely creature"? *Crime passionnel* or murder most foul?

Yours faithfully,
DAVID LILLEY,
49 Blake Road,
Bicester, Oxfordshire.

THE ARTS

Television Preparing for real

Flight sergeants, like all sergeants, are well known for versatility, and might confide that without them the officer corps could well not survive. Flt Sgt Harry Parkinson, for instance, simulating the plight of a pilot trying to escape in hostile territory in BBC1's *Tomorrow's World* at Large last night, was required to display a histrionic talent and did so in a manner that might have made any watching producer sit up.

The pilot audience enjoyed it. This was the first week of their combat survival course at RAF Mountbatten, Plymouth, the classroom stage. Flt Sgt Parkinson had obviously done it all before and he was good value.

His pupils had little to laugh about in their second week, cast out on Dartmoor with minimal ration, dinghies and parachutes, making their own backpacks, learning to snare and kill game, hungry, wet and wretched. Even in peacetime, apparently, a fast-jet pilot can expect to eject once; in wartime, obviously, the odds increase. At Plymouth they prepare them for the real thing in hostile circumstances.

Tomorrow's World's Peter Macann went along for the programme's pride and was half of one of the seven teams. He found it "tough, very tough" - and he did not have to complete it. After the part where they had taken cover to attempt to evade the hunter packs of Royal Marines, he had to withdraw, reprieved by the Official Secrets Act which required the next part of the proceedings, the interrogation, to be off-screen.

Briefing the Marines, the course C.O. cautioned against over-enthusiasm. The pilots, he said, were "rather expensive beasts". It cost about £2m to train a Jaguar pilot these days and he would like them back flying as soon as possible. The Marines got on with it, flushing most of the fugitives, plopping them face down in the earth, kicking their legs apart and blindfolding them. If the Marines were on their best behaviour, their subjects may not have thought so.

All the pilots, successful in evasion or not, were taken off for the interrogation which was, apparently, realistic enough for some to cry, others to ask to withdraw and some to be withdrawn on medical grounds. Without all that, Peter Macann lost a stone. What the others gained or lost in this game, no less grim for the service jokers, we are not to know. I hope they are still glad they volunteered.

Dennis Hackett

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Ponyboy (C. Thomas Howell, left) lays plans with fellow greasers Steve (Tom Cruise) and Two-Bit (Emilio Estevez) in *The Outsiders*

Cinema

Enthralling appeal to old-time sentiment

The Outsiders (PG)
Warner West End; Classic,
Oxford Street; Cinecitta,
Panton Street

WarGames (PG)
Odeon, Leicester Square

It will not be at all fashionable to admire Francis Ford Coppola's newest film, *The Outsiders*, because it is not a fashionable film. Its style originates in film-making traditions from the distant past of movie history. Its method is to work upon the sentiments, and that is something that has been out of favour with British audiences for a long time. The new audiences like to feel the effects of film in their viscera, not in their tear-ducts. But, if they are to be touched, then they want it done with a convincing impression of realism. If they catch themselves allowing their sentiments to be affected by some evident artifice, they are resentful of the manipulation.

In the end, of course, artifice is the nature of art, and all its effects upon us are a kind of manipulation; and there is nothing inherent in those effects that demeans either the artist or the audience. On the contrary, if we do not feel the least wailing of a tear at *The Outsiders*, or a good *Bohème* or *Madame X* or *The Kid* or *All Quiet on the Western Front* or *A Star is Born*, there is a lack in us. If we do, it is certainly nothing shameful or unhealthy. *E.T.* was a great corrective, because it became a matter of pride to have cried at *E.T.*; and that did something to shake the locks on imprisoned British sentiment. Not sufficiently, I guess, to gain acceptance for the sentimental purposes of *The Outsiders*.

The film is based on a 1966 best-seller in the American "young adult" market, written by S. E. Hinton. The genderless signature belonged to a young woman who set out to write a novel about her despair at the senselessness of the ritual warfare waged by the young males she met in school days in the early Sixties. The

story gives the film a superficial resemblance to *Rebel Without a Cause* and the teenage films that followed it, but the comparison is misleading. Those films tried to give their characters some sort of social context. They were fighting a society in which they felt themselves outsiders, but still wanted a place. There was a conflict between the generations, a natural rebellion of the young against parents and against authority.

In Coppola's film society at large is not hostile to Ponyboy (C. Thomas Howell) and Johnny (Ralph Macchio); for the most part it is content just not to know they are there. Their misfortunes are their parents - dead in Johnny's case, callously indifferent in Johnny's. Coppola wants to show more elemental conflicts than in Nicholas Ray's film, in the feud between the Greasers, from the wrong side of the tracks, and the Socs, boys from the affluent middle class, and between the boys' innate good nature and good sense and the aggressiveness demanded of them by the group-instinct of the pack.

"I wanted to take those young street rats", says Coppola, "and give them heroic proportions." He achieves this - steeped in film lore as he is - by returning to the heroic era of the cinema. He imbues his film with the fatalism of *You Only Live Once* or *They Live by Night* or the French realism-romanticism of the late Thirties. His images - the utterly fearless sentiment of silhouettes against red sunsets, or sunlit reflections on water - belong to the silent screen. So does such a scene as the death of the boys' crazy friend Dallas, caught and gunned down in the headlights of the pursuit cars that circle him. Carmine Coppola's music is used like a silent film score to supercharge each dramatic moment. The emotions of the characters are unabashed, and the dialogue is unrestrained by naturalism. At times it recalls the bare poetic ellipses of *All Quiet*.

If you are only prepared to yield to this long-unquestioned appeal to sentiment, it works enthralling, so that at the end you are fully prepared to accept, and to be touched by, the dying Johnny's exhortation to his friend Ponyboy to "stay gold" - gold being the

innocence and responsiveness of childhood, of which some vestige has still remained in these two. Coppola has set out to recreate the experience of an age when movies and their audiences were younger, and the combination of the story, the images, the music and the words carried them off into new regions of imagination and sentiment. For this unfashionable spectator, he succeeds.

The message of *WarGames* is very much the same as that of *The Outsiders*. The principal character in the film is a computer in the United States Combined Operations Center with a facility for learning from its own mistakes, and mastery of a variety of games including Thermo-Nuclear War. At the climax of the film it has taken matters into its own hands and is about to annihilate the Soviet Union. The catastrophe is ingeniously averted by setting the computer to compete with itself at noughts and crosses. This pulls the creature up short with the puzzling discovery: "A strange game: the only way to win is not to play."

It is a useful moral for a nuclear age; and the enormous box-office attraction of the film shows that it is a very popular one among the threatened masses. *WarGames* to an extent is able to hide its own sentimentality behind the great mass of electronic machinery which, rather more comprehensively demonstrated here than in, say, *Tron*, is as intriguing to older generations as to the computer-age young.

The hero is a lad who does not make very good grades at school, yet is a wizard with his home electronic gadgetry (he has even bugged the school computer so that he can improve his grades). One day he accidentally links into the operations room computer, and playfully punches in fictitious information about a Soviet attack on Seattle and Las Vegas. The boy is hailed in by the FBI, and the Third World War is on its way when the youngster saves the day by teaching the old dog its instructive new trick.

If you are only prepared to yield to this long-unquestioned appeal to sentiment, it works enthralling, so that at the end you are fully prepared to accept, and to be touched by, the dying Johnny's exhortation to his friend Ponyboy to "stay gold" - gold being the

book of the film is available in both Penguin and Puffin (respectively £1.50 and £1.25, though the editions are identical apart from the pictures on the covers).

The National Film Theatre recently took a poll among members of the British Film Institute to discover their 30 favourite films, and these have now been programmed into a season which will begin on September 3. The members, God bless them, have presented themselves with a selection of films which is awfully nice, predictable and unadventurous. There are a couple of good Renoirs, *La Grande Illusion* and *La Règle du jeu*, a good Ford (*The Grapes of Wrath*), and an overblown one (*The Searchers*); but after that the choice is disappointingly middle-of-the-road, middle-class, middle-brow and bland. It is the kind of programme that circulates endlessly round the repertory cinemas.

There are no films made to tease and disturb and stir, no Buttolf, no Pasolini, no Anderson. There are no films before 1935, and no silent films at all: NFT patrons - despite the theatre's years of work - have no historical perspective. There is no Eisenstein, no Griffith, no Chaplin, no Stroheim, no Clair, no Lang, no Sternberg, no Vigo, no Jennings, no Dovzhenko, Mizoguchi, Fellini, Pudovkin, Saitajit Ray, not even W. C. Fields or the Marx Brothers. At the top of the list is *Casablanca*, a lucky strike of the journeyman Michael Curtiz. In second place comes *Les Enfants du paradis*, in third *Citizen Kane*. After that the preference is for musicals and colourful spectacle. There is nothing wrong in themselves with the films in the season; but the selection and the omissions give pause.

It is rather as if a similar poll on great literature were to reach back no further than Edgar Wallace, and even then leave out Joyce and Eliot. In such a case we might worry about the state of the national culture; and this pleasant list of films must make the British Film Institute, who are just now celebrating 50 years of trying to build a film culture, wonder if the effort has been worthwhile.

David Robinson

South Bank Summer Music

Amadeus Quartet
Queen Elizabeth Hall

One of the largest audiences so far at South Bank Summer Music assembled on Wednesday to hear the Amadeus Quartet, and not surprisingly, for the name and the musicianship hardly have to shout to make themselves heard. It is the more disquieting, then, that of late that is exactly what seems to be happening.

There is still so much to admire, qualities in this quartet's playing that it is even tempting to take for granted: the spontaneous fusion of delight and high seriousness, for instance, in the geometrical puzzle of the Allegretto of Beethoven's Op 95 F minor Quartet; the weight of rhythmic unanimity churning the asymmetry of its third movement and the finale of Brahms's Op 51 No 2; the flux of tempo and timbre within the same shared impetus in the slow movements.

But these qualities now glint and arrest the ear only to be smothered in an impetus which substitutes external ardour for internal, disciplined energy, and dissipates argument by squandering what is subordinate rather than using it to sharpen or offset the main thrust.

Whether periodic technical clumsiness is due to ill-health or to a lack of rehearsal, the audience cannot know; but it is not pleasant to find oneself waiting for the next pre-echo or bracing oneself against the coarse reply or riposte which, as in the opening of the Beethoven,

merely sings where it should

The Brahms suffered least: its contours were merely exaggerated at times, its part-writing polarized but always alert and alive. If the spirit had a clear win over the letter here, then in the Haydn Op 77 No 1 Quartet, which opened the evening, the letter was too crudely articulated for the spirit to resist distortion. What started out as a potentially agreeable bluff rhythmic humour soon became monotonous, as phrases were allowed to bulge out of shape; and the Presto served only to reveal the invalidity of sound without due respect for silence.

Hilary Finch

"That's Shell - that is!"

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Theatre Taste of America

Agnes of God
Greenwich

Parthenogenesis is good box-office. I am sure. But the playwright John Fielmeier has taken no chances and filled out his study of a young novice's mysterious conception and infanticide with psychoanalysis, domineering mothers, smoking problems, girls obsessed with being overweight or unattractive ("I left the Church because I had freckles"), a singing nun, menstruation and every other interest of the New York theatregoing public, for whom the Roman Catholic Church is potentially enough by itself.

In London, his play seems a strange specimen indeed, even in a serious production by Frank Hauser (no less) built around an impeccably intense performance by Susannah York as a psychiatrist who is ostensibly brought in to assess young Sister Agnes's sanity, but whose real task is to strengthen the proceedings with a shrink's crisis of faith similar to the one which proved so profitable in *Equus*.

She is an atheist who can now have no children, who saw her sister left to die of acute appendicitis in a convent, who went to see Garbo's *Camille* five or six times in the hope that a different last reel might avert the tragedy, and is still searching for something to produce the happy endings. Confront her with a Mother Superior (Honor Blackman, unrecognizable in coif, habit and rasping Irish accent) who has her own claim of motherhood over the girl, and you have a situation which can look as though it has the stuff of drama and over which enough intellectual tie-ups can be cross-hatched to dazzle the snail public and leave them with the impression that something significant is being said.

Agnes, whose baby has been found in a convent waste-paper basket, can remember nothing of its conception, but the potentially interesting question of paternity proves to be a side issue. When, under hypnosis, she relives the original act she utters a riot of euphoric and nature imagery, sings a few little country songs all too similar to Ophelia's in her mad scene and describes her partner in terms that would equally well fit Christ himself, an angel or a tempting ploughboy.

Hilary Reynolds has the task of making convincing theatre out of these contortions; perhaps they need a Fatti Love to make them work, which they hardly deserve. With her baby face Miss Reynolds is convincing as the sort of novice (is there one?) who thinks "suffer little children" means "let children suffer", imagines good babies are conceived by an angel whispering into their mother's ear, and sees visions of the mother who sexually tortured her and must now be in hell because she looks as though she has stepped out of hot shower.

Miss York, making a welcome return to the London stage, handles her private confessions to the audience with a conviction that almost disguises their origins as the life-story gush so beloved of American theatre, and sails with tact through such deplorable attempts at humour as the discussion of what saints might smoke. (King-size for Thomas More; St Joan would chew Gold Block.)

Improbably telling her to "get the hell out of it" with softly Irish "it", Honor Blackman's Mother Miriam Ruth also gives proof of a versatility that suggests the cast have rosier prospects than the playwright.

Anthony Masters

Promenade Concert

City of London
Sinfonia/Hickox
Albert Hall/Radio 3

Colin Matthews's *Night Music* is not a new piece. It was first heard in 1977 and published the following year; the BBC recorded it not long ago; it has been played in Europe and America. Which makes it the kind of work we ought to hear more of at the Proms - one with something of a track record, rather than a commissioned bolt from the blue. Matthews dedicated it to the memory of Deryck Cooke, who died while the piece was being written. The composer says this "no doubt influenced its somewhat elegiac mood", but on this occasion there was more of the dour, monochrome colouring suggested by the title than any feeling of elegy.

Indeed *Night Music* seems to be looking for a darkened melody in a pitchblack room: over obsessive low, punctuating chords from the wind (sometimes attacked by louder horn calls, a difficult texture to balance well), fragments emerge: a rising flute passage, a sudden whirling aside of a curtain of strings to reveal busy

wind activity. (This last move into a new section was punctuated to the bar-line by what sounded like the yelp of an unruly promenade dog in the gallery.) The material recurs, expressively varied around a central section, but not until the last *adagio molto* does a ghost of a tune emerge into the light, only to evaporate at the close.

Under Richard Hickox, the score was projected soberly, accurately (a few awkwardnesses in the wind and one trumpet fluff aside) but without quite making its 20-minute stretch cohere. Hickox was more successful at capturing the splendidly spiky qualities of Britten's *Sinfonietta*, Op 1, with its two soaring violins over grunted basses a remarkable anticipation of sounds to come half a century later. Antony Pay (who recently conducted the Britten well) gave a disappointing account of Mozart's Clarinet Concerto, ill at ease with tuning in the Allegro and slowing the *adagio* to return in the *Adagio* sentimentally. At the end, Beethoven's First Symphony: a lithe, energetic but not especially perceptive account, very well played.

Nicholas Kenyon

NEXT WEEK AT THE NATIONAL THEATRE

22 August to 27 August

Oliver: Low price previews Fri, Sat 7.15
Christopher Hampton's TALES FROM HOLLYWOOD
"A fascinating play about the colony of German writers who found themselves exiled in Tinseltown in the 1940s..."
(Michael Billington, *Guardian*, at the play's premiere in Los Angeles last year)

Lytelton: Tue, Thur 7.45, Wed 1.00 & 7.45
Girardoux's THE TROJAN WAR WILL NOT TAKE PLACE
"Under the masterful direction of Harold Pinter... as witty as anything on the London stage"
(D. Telegraph)

Cottesloe: Mon, Tues 7.30
Peter Gill's SMALL CHANGE
"Completely absorbing"
(Time Out)

Cottesloe: Wed, Thurs, Fri 7.30, Sat 2.30 & 7.30
Gay's THE BEGGAR'S OPERA
"Exuberant comedy of low life"
(Time Out)

ALL AIR CONDITIONED

BOX OFFICE 01-928 2252 Credit Cards 01-923 9993
OLIVER & EXTENSION SPEND 75p from 10p
day - any unsold seats at 50p (2.50 min advance)
COTTESLOE STUDENTS/STANDBY: hope 20 mins before start - any unsold seats 2.20
CAR PARK: FOOD, DRINK, LIVE FOLK & MUSIC



Howel, King of All Wales (1641), from the Carmarthenshire Record Office

munds Psalter, have also somehow arrived in record office collections, and so in this exhibition.

Later on, there is a surprising richness of photographic record, especially of the less flattering aspects of local life, the slums and the workhouses and the night-soil men of South Yorkshire proudly posed around their wagons. A lot of trade tokens and printed ephemera of all kinds extend the value of the collections as social history, but also often delight on artistic grounds as well. What one gets from the show is a vivid panorama of British social life, especially of the humbler sort, through some five centuries. Comfortingly, though the miseries are not glossed over, there are splendours too, evoked with every sign of relish: the choice is left open.

The GLC Presents PARSIFAL

At the Royal Festival Hall

A film by Hans Jürgen Syberberg, starring Reinert Goldberg as Parsifal.

30 August 1983 at 6pm
Admission £2.50
Box office: 01-928 3191

GLC

John Russell Taylor

● *The Genius*, a new play by Howard Brenton, opens at the Royal Court on September 12.

The Great York City Ballet

new AUG 22 - SEP 3

Returns to the Royal Opera House

A repertoire of 12 ballets including 8 new to London
Choreography by: Balanchine, Martins/Robbins/Taras
Box office 01-240 1068 10am to 8pm
Access to all areas

Eves 7.30, Lower price Mats Weds & Sats 2pm

MARKET REPORT

Burton placing expected

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings begin, Aug 15. Dealings end, Sept 2. Contango Day, Sept 5. Settlement Day, Sept 12.

Big institutional investors were said to have been soundly out yesterday about a placing of 40 million shares by the Burton Group. It is the second such occurrence in a fortnight. Such a placing would raise about £130m at yesterday's price of 334p, enough for Burton to buy the Richard Shops and John Collier chains from Hanson Trust.

But Mr Mike Wood, Burton's finance director, said: "Just you wait and see. There will be no placing tomorrow". Burton is now generally reckoned to be the front runner in the race against Mr Gerald Ronson's Heron Corporation and the shops own management to buy them from Hanson.

Yesterday was a day for knocking down market takeover rumours and general speculation.

The Government, its brokers - Mellers, British Petroleum, Morris, all denied that any date had yet been set for the proposed public sale of £500m of the Government's BP share stake. Mr Morris also quashed any thoughts of BP going to the

market for funds, saying, "The Government have run us out on that one." BP shares closed 2p better at 446p after dropping during the day. Fears of a major BP share sale dampened trading on the market yesterday.

Cape Industries, 64 per cent owned by Charter Consolidated, continued gaining ground at 154p after visits to the company by several brokers. The overall view is that the severe rationalization programme have improved productivity and efficiency and that the company is a good recovery stock.

Cape's managing director, Mr William Douglas, did not disagree saying that he was not unhappy with the current profits performance. He too dismissed takeover speculation. He said that Charter Consolidated did not intend spending any of its recently acquired

£20m cash on buying out the company's minority shareholders.

That leaves English China as Charter's takeover favourite in the market's view and those shares held steady at 216p. Charter dropped 5p to 278p.

Mr Alfred Vogel, chairman of textiles company L. D. & S. Rivlin, would appreciate someone telling him who exactly has sold a large stake in the company. Mr Mike Sagrand, the largest shareholder, still has his 26 per cent holding and the pension trusts and Mr L. M. Rivlin still hold theirs. No large interest have shown up on the share register.

still supported by thoughts that Minicorp may bid for it.

Ti Group rose 10p to 164p after its improved profit figures and hopes that the company will sell the Raleigh bicycle

subsidiary, once again denied by the directors.

Elsewhere in the sector, BICC rose 5p to 233p in front of next month's profit figures. Hawker Siddeley climbed 6p to 324p ahead of its expected purchase of John Brown's turbine division. Hopes of a good recovery for some secondary engineering stocks put 12p on Staveley at 260p.

The shares of holiday companies were hit by fears that the price cutting by Thomson had developed into a price war, particularly as Horizon has just reported a sharp profits drop. Horizon shares were down 5p at 128p and Intasun were 3p off at 148p.

A bullish broker's circular put 4p on to Harris Queensway at 280p. In advance of profit figures due next Tuesday Taylor Woodrow added 5p to 530p. Istock Johnson put on 5p to 161p as several brokers put out

circulares suggesting that London Brick - unchanged at 80p - might bid after all. On Wednesday London Brick described Istock as expensive and said there were other ways of expanding into non-brickmaking than by buying Istock.

But several brokers are now saying that London Brick is just trying to talk the price down and may return with an offer next Wednesday when it reports its half-year figures. London Brick refused comment.

One option being considered by London Brick is to build up a stake in a number of smaller regional brickmakers. It might be cheaper but would take a lot longer and could miss the current revival in brick demand.

RITZ dropped back from the year's peak to 660p. The shares have been strong ahead of next month's figures. Its main Australian subsidiary, CRA, has results due next week and they are expected to be good after the much improved performance from Bougainville, a subsidiary of CRA.

Wayne Lintott

RECENT ISSUES

Issue	Price
Admiral Group 25p Otd (115a)	136
Admiral Group 25p Otd (115a)	136
Admiral Group 25p Otd (115a)	136
Admiral Group 25p Otd (115a)	136
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BRITISH FUNDS

Issue	Price
Admiral Group 25p Otd (115a)	136
Admiral Group 25p Otd (115a)	136
Admiral Group 25p Otd (115a)	136
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Admiral Group 25p Otd (115a)	136

MEDIAN

Issue	Price
Admiral Group 25p Otd (115a)	136
Admiral Group 25p Otd (115a)	136
Admiral Group 25p Otd (115a)	136
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COMMONWEALTH AND FOREIGN

Issue	Price
Admiral Group 25p Otd (115a)	136
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LOCAL AUTHORITIES

Issue	Price
Admiral Group 25p Otd (115a)	136
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BANKS AND DISCOUNTS

Issue	Price
Admiral Group 25p Otd (115a)	136
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BREWERS AND DISTILLERS

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COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL

Issue	Price
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1982-83

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
100	100	Admiral Group	136	0	10.0	13.6
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Investment and Finance

City Editor
Anthony Hilton

THE TIMES

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London WC1X 8EZ
Telephone 01-837 1234

STOCK EXCHANGES

FT Index 738.9 up 2.9
FT All Shares 455.74 up 1.37
Bargains 21,292
Datastream USM Leaders
Index 103.86 up 0.56
New York Dow Jones
Average (latest) 1,204.40 up 0.10
Tokyo Nikkei Dow Jones
Index 9,089.58 up 79.50
Hong Kong Hang Seng
Index 1,000.90 down 24.23
Amsterdam 152.50 down 1.40
Sydney AO Index 685.30 up 6.20
Frankfurt Commerce Bank
Index 852.50 up 4.30
Brussels General Index
132.74 up 1.23
Paris CAC Index 134.30 up 2.40
Zurich SKA General 292.60 up 0.10

CURRENCIES

LONDON CLOSE
Sterling \$1.5235 up 1.05
Index 85.5 up 0.3
DM 4.0150 up 0.0150
FF 12.0625 up 0.0450
Yen 370.25 up 1.25
BULLISH
Index 127.8 unchanged
DM 2.6330
NEW YORK LATEST
Sterling \$1.5250
ECU 0.56801
SORE 0.69785

INTEREST RATES

Domestic rates
Bank base rate 9%
Finance houses base rate 10%
Discount market loans week fixed 9%
3 month interbank 9 1/4-9 1/2
Euro-currency rates
3 month dollar 10-10 1/4
3 month DM 5 1/2-5 3/4
3 month FF 15-15 1/4
US rates
Bank prime rate 11.00
Fed funds 9%
Treasury long bond 103.15/32-103.19/32
ECG Fixed Rate Sterling
Export Finance Scheme IV
Average reference rate for interest period July 8 to August 2, 1983 inclusive: 9.989 per cent.

GOLD

London fixed (per ounce):
am \$421 pm \$421.50
close \$422-\$422.75 (E277.77) up 30.75
New York latest: \$421.50
Krugerrand (per coin):
\$435-\$436.50 (\$285.50-286.50)
Sovereigns (new):
\$99-\$100 (\$65-\$66)
Excludes VAT

ANNUAL MEETINGS

Ariel Industries, Alan House,
Newark Street, Leicester
(4.00)
Chamberlain Philips, The
Manor House, Higham Ferrers,
Northamptonshire (2.30)
John J. Lees, Albany Hotel,
Bathwell Street, Glasgow
(12.00)
May & Hassell, Grand Hotel,
Broad Street, Bristol (noon)
Nesco Investments, 44,
Bloomsbury Square, WC1
(12.00)

TODAY

Interims: Algemeine Bank
Nederland, Charles Baynes,
Benford Concrete Machinery,
English and Scottish Investors,
Gt Asia (Sterling) Fund (quarterly),
Letturtime International
Financial WG Allen and Sons
(Tipton), Mining Supplies, Pifco,
Press Tools, Waring and
Gillow, Wholesale Fittings.
Economic statistics: Sales and
orders in the engineering
industries (May). Finished steel
consumption and stock
changes (second quarter -
provisional).

NOTEBOOK

Philips, the Dutch electrical giant,
reased its interim net profits from
250m guilders to 258m guilders
(\$37.6m), while sales volume rose
by only 1 per cent. But both sales
of, and profits from, consumer
goods are still under pressure and
the company does not expect
overall net profit for the year to
grow by the forecast 4-5 per cent.
The joint agreements with AT & T
in digital switching systems and with
Warner and Siemens in recorded
music are progressing.

● The 10 Trustee Savings
Banks (TSBs) in England and
Wales, which have over 1,200
branches, are to amalgamate
into a bank called TSB England
and Wales on November 21.
The four Scottish TSBs combined
to form TSB Scotland in May.
Legislation to convert the
TSBs into a companies act
structure is well advanced.

Sterling M3 still double Treasury's target

Fall in money supply growth will continue, says Government

By Peter Wilson-Smith

The Government reassured financial markets yesterday that it was bringing money supply back under control in an attempt to allay any remaining fears of higher interest rates. The Treasury said that it expected the annualised rate of money growth to continue to fall in the months ahead. All three main measures of money supply are still running well ahead of the Government's 7 to 11 per cent target range in the February-July period. But final money supply figures for last month, published yesterday by the Bank of England, confirmed that monetary growth slowed sharply in July after the previous month's surge.

Sterling M3, the most widely watched measure of broad money supply, is still increasing at an annualised rate of 14.7 per cent.

However, the detailed figures published yesterday confirm that the main expansionary impetus was coming from the private sector's high level of borrowing.

The Government managed to soften the impact of this in July with the high level of government debt sales. Government debt sales of £1.1bn - mostly gilt-edged stocks - were the highest since last November.

The low level of bank lending to the private sector also helped the Government to get closer to its targets in July. Seasonally-adjusted bank lending rose by only £300m.

Government officials believe there is little sign of a resurgence in demand loans from the private sector and officials were also expressing confidence yesterday that the high level of government borrowing and spending which

MONEY GROWTH		
	July %	Feb-July annual rate %
M1	-0.4	14.9
M2	0.8	14.7
PSL2	0.7	15.6

Target band Feb 1983 to April 1984 at annual rate 7 to 11

Source: Bank of England

(P) Provisional

CAPITAL EXPENDITURE		
£million at 1980 prices, seasonally adjusted		
	1982	1983
Manufacturing	5472	5355
Construction	1983	2325
Other	1373	2264
Total	1386	2342
1983 Q1	1850	2424
1983 Q2	1846	2440
1983 Q3	1272	2410

caused money supply to overshoot so badly this year, will not continue.

This has led to optimism in the Treasury that the pace of money growth will continue to slacken, and should in turn help to remove lingering fears about higher interest rates in the United Kingdom.

However, other official statistics out yesterday may add to

Maxwell complaint against Kleinwort

By Our Financial Staff

Mr Robert Maxwell, chairman of the British Printing & Communication Corporation, yesterday lodged a complaint with the Takeover Panel against Kleinwort Benson, the merchant bank.

Kleinwort is acting as adviser to John Waddington in that company's defence against an £18.2m takeover bid by BPCC.

Mr Maxwell's complaint follows Kleinwort's claim that shareholders representing 46.2 per cent of Waddington's capital had indicated that they did not intend to accept the BPCC offer.

"I have lodged a very vigorous complaint with the panel Mr Maxwell said. 'This is the first time I am aware that a merchant bank has claimed that it has 46 per cent of share-

holders supporting them before an offer has closed."

Last night it emerged that the Takeover Panel had agreed the wording of the Kleinwort

Benson letter which Mr Maxwell claims is in breach of takeover rules. However, Mr Maxwell contended that the panel is now "deeply embarrassed" about this.

He said that BPCC had questioned 10 leading institutional shareholders in Waddington and that only two - the M & G and Britannic - had indicated that they would reject the BPCC offer terms.

Together the M & G and Britannic hold 20 per cent of BPCC. The only other known institutional shareholder is Pearl Assurance with a 1 per cent stake.

In a circular posted to shareholders yesterday Mr Maxwell urged shareholders to accept BPCC's offer terms of 13 shares for every 5 Waddington, or a cash alternative of 249.6p.

Last night Waddington's shares were at 244p, down 10p. The paper offer values Waddington at 275p a share.

Krugerrand sales fall by 20%

By Lorna Bourke

Sales of Krugerrands last month were 20 per cent below those of a year ago and were less than one third of the June total.

July sales were 117,758 ounces compared with 147,061 ounces in July last year, and 407,579 for June this year.

Dealers blame the decline on a relatively unexciting performance by gold last month. It traded within a narrow 520 range depressing sales which tend to fluctuate widely depending on gold price movements.

Gold hit a high for this year of \$503 an ounce in January compared with a low for that month of \$449, and investors piled in, buying more than 437,000 ounces of Krugerrands.

Last month gold traded between \$410 and \$430 giving investors little room to speculate and sales at 117,758 ounces reflected this.

Overall, sales for the first seven months of this year are 9 per cent up on the same period last year, totalling 2,164,290 ounces. This is surprising since gold traded within a much wider range last year - \$296 to \$488 compared with a range this year of \$410 to \$511.

"A large proportion of Krugerrands are bought by private investors and sales are therefore subject to seasonal factors like holidays," said Mr David Youngman of Manchester stockbrokers Charlton Seal Dimmock & Co.

Mr Youngman believes that a continuation of the present trading range for gold seems most likely.

"Following the invasion of Chad by Libyan troops and with the conflict in Central America showing no signs of easing, a significant decline in the gold price is unlikely and the substantial technical support around \$400 should limit any fall," he says.

He believes this will be counterbalanced by uncertainty over American interest rates, and the US budget deficit which will prevent gold from making any significant headway.

Banks grant Poland extension on debts

By Our Banking Correspondent

Poland has reached broad agreement with commercial banks on rescheduling \$2.6bn (£1.7bn) of loans and interest payments due this year.

Talks were continuing yesterday in Vienna to hammer out details, but an official communiqué said that the banks had signed a memorandum of understanding with officials of the Polish finance ministry and the foreign trade bank, Bank Handlowy.

Western banks have agreed to spread payments of capital over a larger period than previously because of Poland's deep-seated economic problems.

Ninety-five per cent of the \$1.5bn capital due will be rescheduled over 10 years, instead of the seven years in the 1982 rescheduling agreement.

Bankers have also made a further concession on how much of the \$1.1bn of interest payments due this year will be re-lent to the Poles in new trade

doubts about the strength of the economic recovery.

Cyclical indicators for the economy which are supposed to give early signs of changes in economic activity shows almost no change in the longer leading index between April and July.

The Central Statistical Office said it was impossible to tell whether this was more than a temporary hesitation in the previous rise in the index.

The latest figures on capital spending for the second quarter of the year also show investment in the economy stagnating.

One mildly optimistic sign is that manufacturing industry investment has picked up slightly, but from a low base.

Industry's stock levels also fell in the second quarter of the year. A small rise had been expected, but the provisional estimate for manufacturers, retailers and wholesalers stocks indicate a fall of £155m.

However, other official statistics out yesterday may add to

caused money supply to overshoot so badly this year, will not continue.

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City Editor's Comment

Keeping confidence in the Commission

Mr Nigel Brookes,

chairman of Trafalgar House, intends next month to press for publication of the evidence his side has submitted to the Monopolies Commission which is sitting in judgment on his proposed acquisition of P&O, the shipping group.

One has to admire his courage, if nothing else, because securing the necessary permission proceeds to be a bureaucratic nightmare. Now only does he need to get the approval of the Commission, but the Secretaries of State for Defence, Transport and Trade and Industry will also have to be won over. Doing that may well require a voluminous and individual submission to each because, though they may not have the legal right to refuse permission, they do have every right to demand to be persuaded.

That quality will surely not improve if principals begin to submit evidence, not in confidence, but with an eye instead to eventual publication.

Holmes à Court reminder

The appearance in London this weekend of Mr Robert Holmes à Court will remind investors that there are some takeover bids he sees through to the end.

He is here on business with Associated Communications Corporation, the former Lord Grade company he bought lock stock and film rights against all odds early last year.

His takeover of ACC set a pattern which has become increasingly his own: he bought a small stake ownership of which filtered out and became public knowledge.

The pattern seems to be repeated at Fleet Holdings, the national newspaper and magazine group headed by Lord Matthews.

Mr Holmes à Court has built up a stake which his aids confirm is now 3 1/2 per cent. He has held about 2 per cent of the group for sometime but has been buying more recently.

Aggressor amidst the fleet

Last month, what was regarded as the "parental protection" stock held by Trafalgar House, Fleet's former parent company, was cancelled.

It effectively allowed Trafalgar to convert £15m loan stock into about 40 per cent of Fleet shares in the event of a takeover bid, and was designed to keep the infant Fleet independent until it began maturing.

Even without this protection, any takeover intentions by Mr Holmes à Court looks premature, although he is offended by the suggestion that he would sooner walk away from a situation with profit than make a full scale bid.

But the sceptics were out in the stock market yesterday where Fleet Holdings, emerged 18 months ago at 21p a share, fell back 3p to 119p. Even at this level, Mr Holmes à Court is still showing a profit.

Unfair to P&O

If and when those hurdles are overcome, the City Panel on Takeovers and Mergers will want to have its say. It is most unhappy with the idea because it thinks it would be unfair to P&O and confusing to shareholders if this information was published, without some independent assessment of its veracity.

In other words, the Panel will insist that the information be audited, and if that is not possible then they will surely want some independent opinion short of an audit.

But that will create a further problem. P&O will have to reply to these missives, or risk its silence being misinterpreted. And if it chooses to reply, that too will have to be audited.

It is hard to see what is going to be achieved by all this - other than Mr Brookes perhaps achieving a tactical advantage in his bid battle by casting doubt on the provisional value of P&O assets.

But against that, the risk of damage to the reputation and soundness of the Monopolies Commission seems to

Low-cost imports hit margins at Corah

By Jeremy Warner

Corah Half-year to 1.7.83
Pre-tax profit £1m (£1.4m)
Stated earnings 2.7p (4.2p)
Turnover £27.8m (£26.9m)
Net interim dividend 1.5p (same)
Share price 84p, down 8.5p
Yield 7.8%

Corah, the Marks and Spencer clothing supplier, experienced a big drop in profits during the first half of this year. Pre-tax profits fell from £1.4m to £1m on sales up from £25.9m to £27.8m. The company explained that profit margins have been under considerable pressure as traditional markets have been hit by an increasing volume of low-cost imports. Although selling prices were raised, they were insufficient to cover costs. However, the order book is strong and Corah says that sales in the second half will show a marked increase over the first, returning the company to its more usual trading pattern. Mr Nicholas Corah, the chairman, said the company had considerably improved productivity and efficiency in recent years through investment in modern technology. M and S takes about two-thirds of Corah's production. Last year the group increased its profits from £1.6m to £2.6m, despite a £30,000 exceptional charge caused by the cost of transferring production to a new dyehouse. This caused considerable disruption in the second half of last year. The effect apparently carried through into the first six months of this year. An unchanged interim dividend of 1.5p is being paid.

Helene buys clothing firm

Helene of London, the fashion and leisurewear group, is expanding further with the acquisition, at a price related to future profits, of clothing distributor JDC. Helene is also forecasting much improved profits for the year and making a £1.1m one-for-three rights issue at 17p. The rights price is a discount of 5.6p to the adjusted value of yesterday's unchanged market price of 24.5p. The company is forecasting unchanged half-year profits of £253,000 and £800,000 for the year, compared with £243,000 in 1982. The payment for JDC will be nine times the average annual after-tax profits over the seven years from June 1 this year. There will also be an initial payment of £475,000. In the year to the end of May, JDC made pre-tax profits of £327,000 on turnover of £3.8m.

INVESTORS' NOTEBOOK • edited by Michael Prest

Philips struggles to catch Japanese

For almost a decade Philips has been locked in a struggle with its rivals in the Japanese electronics industry, but try as it undoubtedly does, the Dutch company has slowly lost ground. However, the first half figures show that even if sales are only creeping ahead, profits are performing a little better. At 20.663m guilders (£4.592m) sales were up by 1 per cent, but while trading profit fell from 1.152m guilders to 1.109m guilders, net profits advanced by just under 4 per cent to 259m guilders, to return to a faster rate of profit growth, is welcome, and is reflected in profit after tax as a percentage of sales rising from 1.2 to 1.4. Nevertheless, net profit per share is unchanged at 1.37 guilders and stocks as a percentage of sales rose from 29.5 to 31.3.

The size of the task can be measured by the continued sluggish expansion of the European consumer market. Sales of colour television sets - a market in which Philips is committed to stay - benefited last year from the World Cup, but other consumer products have suffered. The troubles afflicting Latin America also took their toll. Lighting and batteries did well, and sales of integrated circuits in America gave encouragement to electronic component sales, a healthy sign in this key market.

North American sales in general were inflated by the strength of the dollar, but it seems that the underlying trend was up. Against that, the previous booming Middle Eastern markets declined.

But important as sales volume and market share are to Philips, the toughest fight in recent years has been to contain costs and hold profit margins.

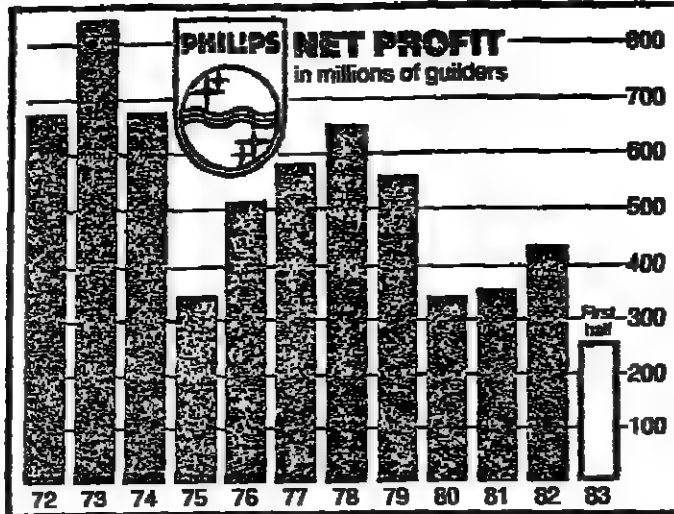
The glut on the video and audio markets - the former has been especially costly - depressed profits severely. Trading profits also fell in domestic appliances and personal products. But profits rose in professional equipment, medical systems, and electronic components.

Like all such companies, Philips is highly sensitive to world economic conditions, and the hardy and patchy nature of the recovery has almost certainly meant that the forecast 4-5 per cent growth in profits for 1983 will not materialize.

That in turn inhibits the company's ability to fund the research, investment, and reorganization essential to preserving its competitiveness.

Bisgood Bishop

It would have been difficult for a stockjobber to lose money on the stock market in the 12 months to the end of May. Jobbers traditionally earn much more when the market is booming and in the last financial year, for Bisgood Bishop, the FT index of top 30 shares put on almost 120 points. At the pre-tax level Bisgood pushed profits to £2.4m against £891,000 - a record after 80 years in the jobbing business. The profits were earned on turnover up 50 per cent to £2.1bn - almost the combined sales figures of three of the big companies in whose shares Bisgood make a market.



But last year it was not only the shares in larger companies which helped to pay six directors more than £500,000. The Unlisted Securities Market, where Bisgood is the leading stock jobber, is estimated to have earned it about 30 per cent of the pre-tax figure. New issues in the USM have been running at about three a week.

USM issues have tailed off recently, but general stock market turnover has remained high and the large buying of British equities by American investors should be reflected in good figures for the current year.

But times are changing in the Exchange and Bisgood would like more strength in the gilt-edged market, where larger jobbers have a monopoly.

It has already formed itself a limited liability company to trade on the London Inter-

national Financial Futures Exchange where the long gilt contract to hedge against the main market has been one of Life's most active features. Bisgood is in the mood for expansion, with a few qualms about preserving the status quo. Its belief that a single investor should be allowed to own a majority stake in a Stock Exchange firm is in itself an example of Bisgood's desire to grasp the nettle to gain a share of international business.

Johnson Group Cleaners

Johnson Group Cleaners Half-year to 30.6.83
Pre-tax profit £2m (£2.6m)
Turnover £28.9m (£24.2m)
Net interim dividend 2p (2p)
Share price 33p, down 1p

Johnson Group Cleaners' first results since the Mon-

opolies Commission blocked the bids from Sunlight and Initial show encouraging buoyancy in both dry cleaning and textile rental.

The trend is encouraging and should set to rest the worries that Johnson's growth would slow just as it did after the Monopolies Commission blocked an earlier bid from Sketchley.

The improvement in profits has come from both dry cleaning and more importantly the textile rental side, which suggests the company is benefiting from a pick-up in industrial activity.

Dry cleaning has held up well throughout the recession with consumer spending remaining relatively high. The buoyancy in dry cleaning largely offsets the difficulties on the industrial side, which in 1981 was losing business.

The second half should see similar growth, providing industrial recovery continues. It should also see some acquisitions in the US, where Johnson already has a presence. These were postponed by the fight first against Sunlight and later Initial.

The bid defence cost £370,000 in the last accounts, but the final reckoning will only be known at the end of the year. Meanwhile, market share is growing slightly and is probably a little above the 24 per cent shown in the Monopolies report.

Cynics tend to discuss Johnson's rate of profits growth as too slow, but the company has always managed to increase its figures and yesterday's results are as good as any the industry has seen.

Gill foresees big profits in cable

By Ow Financial Staff

Cable television could prove to be as big a money-maker as the independent network was in the 1950s, according to Mr Jack Gill, formerly of Associated Communications and now chairman of Croydon Cable Television. His company is preparing a

bid for one of the 12 franchise areas to be granted by the Government this autumn. Applications have to be in by the end of this month. The company, which is the idea of Mr Alan Robinson, a Croydon businessman, has already attracted influential

backing. Apart from Mr Gill, shareholders include Rascal Oak, Balfour Beatty Construction, and Waites, together with The Croydon Advertiser, Crystal Palace, the local football team, Surrey County Cricket Club and Cablevision International, a leading operator.

COMMODITIES

LONDON METAL EXCHANGE		ZINC		SIERRA LEONE		SINGAPORE	
Official prices		Three months		Three months		Three months	
Official forward prices		Barrel		Barrel		Barrel	
Prices in pounds per metric ton		Basis to deliver per first ounce		Basis to deliver per first ounce		Basis to deliver per first ounce	
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Jeremy Warner reports on an unusual meeting

Lunchtime rescue bid fails to satisfy chairman of TKM

It could have been any expense-account lunch - four men, a secluded table at the Savoy, four courses, two wines and a large bill at the end.

But this was no ordinary business meeting. They were talking big money - up to £70m. The aim was no less ambitious than the refinancing of a once prosperous international trading group now overburdened by a mountain of debt, supported by its bankers, and with no hope of trading its way into securer pastures.

Ranged round the table were the chairman of British Car Auctions, Mr David Wickins, fresh from his success in helping to save Group Lotus, the Norfolk sports car company; Mr Stephen Evans from the stockbrokers Anderson & Co and Mr Murdoch Morrison, a freelance corporate financier.

Their guest was Sir Montague Prichard, chairman of Tozer Kemsley and Millbourn, the deeply troubled motor distribution and property group. It was his company they were discussing.

Sir Montague was installed as chairman of TKM last Christmas. He had been a director for many years. In the preceding years the group, which had once recorded pretax profits of £16m, made an attributable loss of £26m, while net debt, at £100m, had spiralled to seven times the value of shareholders' funds.

Mr Kenneth Thorogood, the former chairman, and the ex-Slater Walker man Mr Malcolm Horsman, who had been managing director for two years, left abruptly.

Sir Montague listened with a mixture of hope and incredulity as his fellow diners discussed a plan that might all but wipe out the group's £100m banking debt.

The three men claimed to speak for a group of shareholders together accounting for more than 50 per cent of TKM's share capital.

The plan was to raise an initial £13.5m via a one-for-all rights issue. This would be underwritten by financial and industrial companies who were already shareholders in TKM.

'We cannot trade our way out of this position'

In addition they would subscribe an equal amount of new shares capital on top, taking the total raised to £27m.

They also wanted to see a strengthening of the TKM board of directors through promotion, from inside the group, of various executives in the subsidiary companies and through the appointments of outsiders.

But try as Sir Montague may, he could not persuade Mr Morrison or Mr Evans to disclose the identity of their clients or those prepared to put up the hard cash.

He knew that Anderson had, over a long period put a lot of clients into TKM who were now nursing sizable paper losses on their investment.

He was also told that Mass Development of Kuwait with 9.5 per cent of TKM was a supporter of the scheme and that arm's length support was also being offered by Mr Kenneth Thorogood, who once held more than 9 per cent of TKM, acquired in controversial fashion in May 1981.

But without more information, Sir Montague could not take the plan seriously.

In any case, the deal would depend on TKM's legion of 86 bankers currently co-ordinated by a committee of those lending the company £25m or more cash under the chairmanship of National Westminster.

They would have to agree to convert at least £27m of their debt into some form of deferred equity like redeemable preference shares.

This is not such an unlikely prospect as it might seem since the lease of life granted to TKM by its bankers comes to an end next May. The idea of conversion had also originated from one of the larger lending banks.

This ambitious proposal had been put together by Morrison Associates, several City pension



Thorogood (left) and Horsman: they left abruptly



Prichard (left) and Wickins: at cross purposes



finds and one big clearing bank were said to be committed to putting up the cash.

The lunch took place on July 9, but the proposal has yet to receive a decision from Sir Montague, who already takes merchant banking advice from Lazard.

"I am as aware as anyone that we cannot trade our way out of this position," he says. "It is obvious that we need capital reconstruction. But the bankers are likely to want to see further proof that we can trade profitably and successfully before they will agree to it."

"The basis of the scheme as presented is worthy of being put to our bankers, but I have yet to see concrete proposals and the names of the people prepared to put up the money. I would also have preferred to have waited until next spring."

TKM was once primarily an international finance and commissioning house, but during the late 1960s and most of the 1970s it went the way of most ambitious trading companies, expanding into a wide diversity of businesses by acquisition.

Though TKM never sparked in the way some international traders did, all went well until 1979 when the group lost its lucrative BMW motor distributorship franchise in Britain - a business that had contributed about £7m profits in that year.

In an effort to replace the lost earnings, it paid £25m for Wadhwan Stringer, a motor distributor which accounts for about a tenth of BL's British sales.

It proved to be a disastrous acquisition, bought at a time when car sales were plunging and finance costs were soaring. In 1980, Wadhwan Stringer, far from replacing earnings, actually lost £5m.

TKM was in trouble and it was clear that the wheeler dealing ways of the past had to be put into reverse quickly.

But it was not until November 1981 that the group made its first divestment. The Overseas Services and Wings holiday business was sold to Rank Organisation for £14.5m.

The following May the original commissioning house business was sold to the Hongkong Bank for £19m. The loss-making McKee agricultural equipment and snow blowing offshoot in Canada was first merged with a competitor and then put into receivership in November 1982.

The same sort of fate awaited the canned food interests which were first merged with Imperial Group's Snedley-HP Foods business and then sold for just £1 to a private company with a better record in the industry.

This programme has left TKM with a shrunken down Wadhwan Stringer, profitable franchisees in Britain and France for the Japanese car makers Mazda and Daihatsu, substantial property interests in North

America, the Price and Pierce timber and pulp company and several smaller peripheral interests.

Though the group returned to profit in its last half year of trading, these businesses are not of the scale necessary to service £100m of debt.

So far, the handling of the crucial refinancing issue has been a public relations disaster. An enormous gulf seems to separate board from shareholders and shareholders from supporting bankers.

The Morrison group apparently believed that its plan had been adopted in principle by the board shortly before the annual meeting on July 19.

Emissary failed to close the credibility gap

This belief, based on a letter from Lazard Brothers, on August 4, helped to head off a planned shareholders' revolt at the meeting.

But very little progress has been made since then. Another example of the communications gap is conflict over the role of Mr David Wickins.

He claims that he set up the original lunch to acquaint Sir Montague with the refinancing proposal and to offer himself as someone who might have a management contribution to make to Wadhwan Stringer.

Sir Montague claims, however, that he never fully understood the position of Mr Wickins in the affair so that when Mr Wickins sounded off in the press about a plan he had cooked up several years ago to float Wadhwan Stringer off, Sir Montague hit the roof.

The blue-blooded merchant bank Robert Fleming was recently appointed as emissary for the Morrison group but even this has failed to close the credibility gap that anonymity has created. If it is to get anywhere, the group will have to reveal itself.

Meanwhile its organizers are putting together a management team which they plan to move on to the TKM board when the time is right.

Besides Sir Montague, who has taken on the role of chief executive despite the original non-executive nature of his chairmanship, there are only two other executives on the board. The rest is composed of four non-executives who from time to time chair the group's three management committees.

To shareholders, the eventual alternatives seem to be a capital reconstruction or receivership. The sooner some kind of reconstruction can be put through, the sooner TKM can hope to become a viable investment again.

Thomson Regional Newspapers: Mr William Heaps is now managing director. He has been editorial director since July, 1982, and will continue these responsibilities under the new title of editor-in-chief. Mr Roger Nicholson will be deputy managing director. He remains his present responsibilities and will be assuming additional ones, in particular at TRN board level, for TRN's weekly newspapers at Chester and Merthyr Tydfil.

OCS Group: Mr Trevor Flindall, Mr John Gray and Mr Stephen Phillips have joined the board.

Esco International: Mr Geoffrey Adkins, who is a director of British & Commonwealth Shipping, has been appointed a non-executive director.

SIEMENS

Information for Siemens shareholders

Respectable showing in stagnating markets

Although the international economic situation remained unsatisfactory during the first nine months - 1 October 1982 to 30 June 1983 - of the current financial year, Siemens recorded a 13% rise in new orders worldwide and a small 3% growth of sales as against last year's third-quarter totals. Orders in hand rose 11% to nearly £15,100m.

New orders. Business differed widely in domestic and international markets and among the various operating sectors. New domestic orders increased 46% to £4,648m, due largely to two major power plant contracts. But even discounting the weight of these projects, domestic business brought in 7% more orders than in the same period last year. At £4,352m, new international orders remained 9% below last year's figure. Contributing to this result were the continuing stagnation of most industrial economies, balance of payment difficulties of several key client nations, and a slowing of infrastructure expansion in a number of oil producing countries.

Among the operating groups, Power Engineering and Automation was hardest hit by slow capital spending in many countries. By contrast, Communications - the other of the two large Siemens Groups - achieved slightly more orders in world markets than last year. Above-average growth of new orders was recorded by both the Data Systems Group and the Medical Engineering Group. The latter has already sold fifteen of its new nuclear magnetic resonance tomographs, nine of them to customers in the U.S.A.

Sales. Worldwide sales increased 3% over last year's third-quarter totals to £7,247m. Business developed somewhat more favourably at home than abroad: domestic sales rose 5% to £3,205m, while international sales were only 2% ahead of last year's figure at £4,042m. Data Systems and Medical Engineering were also the strongest Groups in sales, recording two-figure growth rates.

Inventory. Although inventories have increased 11% to £4,804m during the current financial year, this is due solely to major power plant contracts.

Employees. Underutilization continued to characterize most of the company's production facilities. Thus the number of employees could not remain entirely unaffected; worldwide, it declined 4% to 311,000. In the Federal Republic of Germany and Berlin (West) the reduction was 5%, and abroad 3% - a figure that would also

have been nearly 5% had the employees of a plant acquired by Siemens-Alis not been added to the work force abroad. Employment cost went up 1% to £3,153m.

Capital expenditure and investment, at £283m, remained at last year's level.

Net income after taxes was £138m (last year: £119m), representing a net profit margin of 1.9% (last year: 1.7%).

In £m	1/10/81 to 30/6/82	1/10/82 to 30/6/83	Change
New orders	7,982	8,986	+13%
Domestic business	3,193	4,648	+46%
International business	4,799	4,352	-9%
Sales	7,005	7,247	+3%
Domestic business	3,041	3,205	+5%
International business	3,964	4,042	+2%

In £m	30/9/82	30/6/83	Change
Orders in hand	13,582	15,087	+11%
Inventory	4,313	4,804	+11%

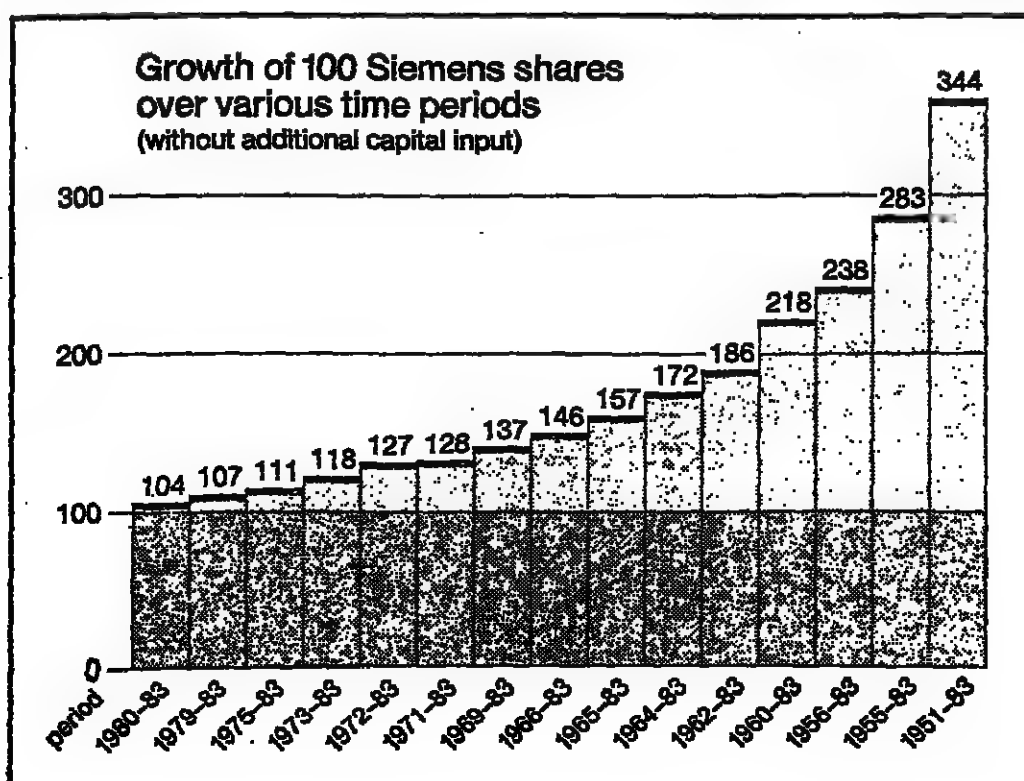
in thousands	30/9/82	30/6/83	Change
Employees	324	311	-4%
Domestic operations	220	210	-5%
International operations	104	101	-3%

	1/10/81 to 30/6/82	1/10/82 to 30/6/83	Change
Average number of employees in thousands	331	316	-5%
Employment cost in £m	3,130	3,153	+1%

In £m	1/10/81 to 30/6/82	1/10/82 to 30/6/83	Change
Capital expenditure and investment	283	283	-
Net income after taxes	119	138	+16%
In % of sales	1.7	1.9	+12%

All amounts translated at Frankfurt middle rate on 30 June 1983: £1 = DM 3.892.

How does your Siemens investment grow?



Every few years, Siemens invites its shareholders to subscribe for new capital stock by issuing subscription rights. These rights may be exercised by shareholders to purchase new Siemens shares, even without investing additional capital of their own. The graph shows how these options can be applied to make 100 Siemens shares grow. The calculation assumes that each time there was a capital increase, enough subscription rights were sold by the shareholder to allow him to buy new shares with the proceeds alone. Thus from 1973 to 1983, his 100 shares have grown to 118. In 30 years' time, the number of shares has more than tripled. As a result, not only is the value of his portfolio bigger, but also the size of his annual dividend payment.

Changes at Barclays International

Barclays Bank International: Mr Peter Dodd, managing director of Barclays Asia in Hongkong, had been made general manager in Hongkong. Mr John Philip, chief executive of the National Bank of Malawi, had been appointed managing director of Barclays Bank of Ghana and Mr Robert Bird, a general manager's assistant at the head office in London, is to become managing director of Barclays Bank of Botswana.

Masey-Ferguson has created four divisions out of the firm and industrial machinery division. Each will be headed by a president. Mr James Felker, president of the Perkins Engines division, become president of the tractors and farm equipment division. Mr John Seward, director of technical operations for Europe and world exports,

APPOINTMENTS

will be president of the industrial machinery division and Mr Adri Verbaan, formerly general manager for Australia, is to be president of the Australian division. Mr Felker is succeeded as president at Perkins Engines by Mr John Devaney.

The Young Vic: Mr Bernard Brook-Partridge has been named as chairman, in succession to Mr Jeffrey Sterling. Mr Kenneth Fleet, who has resigned as deputy chairman, will be succeeded by Mr David Land. Mr Fleet is continuing to serve as a member of the board.

Electrocompagnies: Mr David Jones is joining the board as an executive director on September 1.

Siemens AG

In Great Britain: Siemens Ltd.
Siemens House, Windmill Road, Sunbury-on-Thames
Middlesex, TW16 7HS

As would-be cable television operators conclude their programming proposals and business forecasts for submission to the Home Office at the end of this month, advertisers are fighting to ensure that advertising revenue is not left out of the financial calculations, as it has been to a large extent in America.

In particular, they want to be able to advertise on the premium feature film channels, which are likely to win cable television's biggest audiences. This is not possible in the United States, where the absence of commercials has been one of pay cable's biggest selling points.

Whatever happens in seems certain that advertising agents will not have the same influence over cable broadcasting as they have on ITV.

With the bulk of potential revenue for cable operators coming direct from the viewer in the form of subscriptions and premium payments for specific channels and programmes, advertising is a low priority in the minds of most applicant groups.

Advertisers are concerned that if cable television in Britain follows the American pattern, with commercials excluded from the most popular television channels, they will see their existing ITV audiences fall and be unable to make up the loss by advertising on cable.

"You must allow advertising on your most popular channels," says advertising agency McCann-Erickson in an open letter to potential cable operators this week.

"This has not happened in the United States for historical reasons and goes a long way to explain the apparent reluctance of advertisers there to use cable. But there is no reason why even premium channels should not carry advertisements. The viewer will appreciate that this will keep the subscription costs down." Viewers may or may not agree.

A report from another American advertising agency, Young & Rubicam, spells out the failure of the cable business to attract advertising in the United States.

"Growth of advertising revenue for cable television has been disappointing: the level achieved in 1982 is estimated to have been about \$180m to \$200m, 119m to 132m, well short of the \$250m originally projected and relatively insignificant measured against the \$4.94bn derived from subscription payments.

"As a further comparison, the three national networks - NBC, CBS and ABC - attracted in 1981 an advertising revenue of \$12.7bn; the cable industry's advertising revenue for that year totalled \$129m. On this basis, it is hardly surprising that

Marketing and advertising: Torin Douglas

Worried agencies look to cable TV for a commercial break

only one of the approximately 20 advertising-based cable networks is yet generating any profit.

Instead of simply accepting that the American experience will be repeated here, advertising agencies are arguing that cable operators can learn from what they see as America's mistakes.

For the past two weeks, the agencies' trade body, the Institute of Practitioners in Advertising, has been putting its case in a series of presentations to the 30 or so groups known to be preparing submissions for one of the 12 pilot projects to be licensed by the Home Office this autumn, as well as to some of the companies that will be providing national programme channels for the local operators.

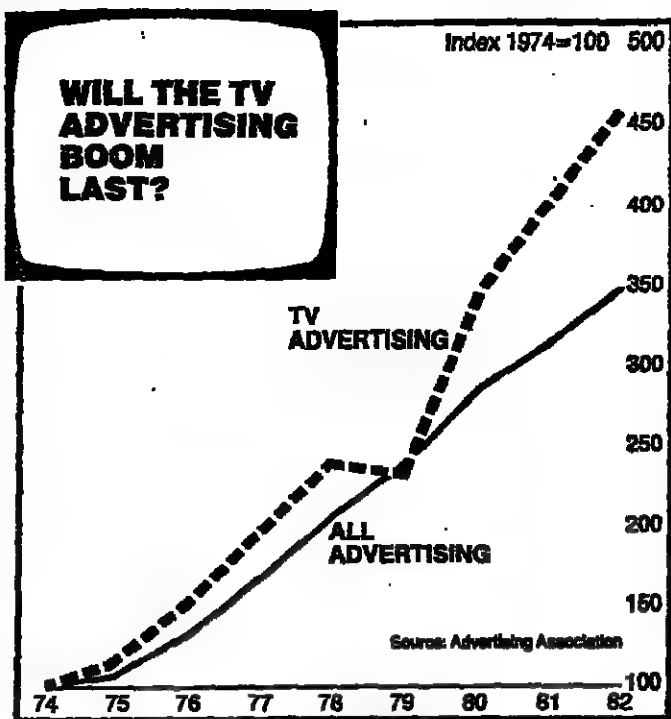
Mr Nicholas Mellersh, chief executive of United Cable Programmes, which intends to launch the sort of high quality, feature film channel that the advertising agencies are anxious to buy airtime on, is impressed by their arguments, but his company has still to decide whether to take commercials.

This week, Mr Mellersh presented his business plan for the service - called TEN, which stands for The Entertainment Network - to the five partners in the United Cable consortium Rediffusion, Visionaire, Plessey, Rank Trident Cable & Satellite, and the American film company UIP. The question of advertising is fully discussed in the plan, he says.

"Advertising is of crucial importance to cable generally because there is a limit to what people will pay for their programming and it will help reduce that cost," says Mr Mellersh. "Whether or not it is right for the premium channels, however, is a different question."

"For example, should you interrupt a feature film with commercials? Some people argue that that ruins the film. On the other hand, people at home are used to having breaks in a feature film and there is no evidence that they watch less ITV than the BBC because of the ads - on the contrary, 24 of the top 25 feature film audiences on TV last year were ITV's."

One stumbling block may be



the attitude of the motion picture companies, who may not want their films interrupted. Since United Cable's American backer, UIP, is owned by several of the big film studios - MGM, Paramount and Universal - this could be a crucial factor.

A solution could be to allow advertising before or after the film but this would naturally be less attractive to advertisers than breaks in the middle.

Whatever happens, the advertising agencies are using the cable companies not to promise customers that there will be no advertising. "This is what happened in America and the cable companies are now regretting it," says Mr Peter Todd, media director of Davidson Pearce and chairman of the IPA's Cable Advertising Advisory Group. "It is very difficult to backtrack and allow advertising once you have set your face against it."

Mr Todd believes that there would be no sales benefits for the cable operators in offering channels free of advertising, as there are in America, because British programmes are inter-

rupted far less frequently by commercials.

The IPA is urging the cable operators to set up a sophisticated audience research system. As a model, it points to Independent Local Radio which, after 10 years on air, now has a Radio Marketing Bureau and three national sales companies with cable. However, they do not want to wait 10 years for these facilities.

The agencies face a glaring credibility gap here, for they admit that in the early years there will be little advertising revenue. The Young & Rubicam report points out that it is likely to be 1995 before cable achieves 30 per cent penetration in homes, which is regarded as the minimum needed for a medium to attract serious consideration from national advertisers.

Since the audience research and the sales operation will be expensive to set up and run, the cable business will be tempted not to spend money on such facilities until there is the prospect of a real return.

Unlike the radio stations and ITV, which are obliged to pay

for sales departments and research, since their only source of income is advertising, the cable operators can choose to do without advertising if they feel it is not worth the cost of selling it.

There is the prospect of an impasse in which the advertisers stay off cable because they do not have reliable audience figures and because the sales process is too complex, while the cable operators refuse to provide better back-up services because there is insufficient advertising revenue to justify them.

Ultimately, the most crucial question is what level of advertising is "sufficient" to justify cable taking it seriously and on this issue few people are prepared to speculate. The IPA in its presentation to the Hunt Committee last year predicted that cable could attract £120m (at 1980 prices) by 1995, assuming a 50 per cent penetration of homes by then.

Many agencies, however, felt this was unreasonably optimistic and in its presentations to operators this week, the IPA has been refusing to put forward a figure, pointing out instead that display advertising revenue has grown by 25 per cent in real terms in the last 10 years and that television's share of this figure has risen from 36 to 41 per cent. With advertising's share of gross national product also rising, the implication is that cable operators should tap this growing source of income.

The fact is that advertising agencies will welcome any new medium, on the grounds that if it works it is bound to be to their clients' advantage, but they do not want to commit themselves to supporting it until they see the size of the audience.

As the letter from McCann-Erickson warns operators: "Remember that agencies are the guardians of other people's money and therefore cannot fund speculative enterprises. We need a very good case before parting with money."

Nevertheless, it would be a brave cable company that decided it could do without advertising once it was available. As the IPA pointed out in its evidence to the Hunt Committee, the best analogy for cable is not ITV but newspapers and magazines, which get some of their revenue from cover price and some from advertising.

In theory, the IPA says, the price of popular daily newspapers would have to rise by a third if there were no advertising; quality dailies more than double and quality Sundays treble. Would the cable viewer be prepared to bear the equivalent extra in the cost of his subscription?

Financial notebook

Adding to confusion by simple definition

The recent burst of takeovers may reflect a desire to make bargain purchases in anticipation of an early end to the recession. But it also brings into sharp relief one of the more important unresolved controversies in accounting practice namely, whether certain types of business amalgamation should be regarded as a merger rather than as an acquisition, and if so, how to define a merger and how to account for it.

The reported results in the year of amalgamation can be significantly different, depending on the accounting treatment adopted.

Accountants and lawyers have been arguing about this subject for years, and the latest proposal from the Accounting Standards Committee seems to have fuelled the controversy instead of resolving it.

Combine the assets

Those who argue for merger accounting believe that it should be applied where the amalgamation is brought about by an exchange of shares without significant resources leaving the combining companies. Such a transaction, it is argued, is readily distinguishable from an acquisition of a company for cash where the selling shareholders no longer retain an interest in the combined group.

Reflecting the above distinction, advocates of merger accounting argue that the fairest presentation of a so-called merger is to ignore the market value of the newly acquired subsidiary (that is the price which would have been paid in cash) and instead to combine the assets and liabilities of the individual companies as though they have always belonged to a single owner.

Similarly, group profits before and after the merger of the combining companies are treated as though they had been earned by a single entity, and no adjustment is made to exclude profit earned by the newly acquired subsidiary before the amalgamation.

So why the controversy? By proposing a radically different accounting basis where a merger is identified,

the Accounting Standards Committee, presumably believes that a merger is a distinctly different transaction from an acquisition. It is implicit in such an assumption that a merger cannot stem from a one-sided desire to "acquire" the other company.

Yet the latest proposals would not automatically prohibit merger accounting in such circumstances. Indeed, the only significant criterion to be met before merger accounting may be applied is that the transaction is in the form of a share exchange and that 90 per cent of the offeree's shares are acquired thereby.

The trouble is that it is extremely difficult to define a merger in such a way as to avoid abuse. Consequently, the Committee has opted for the simplest possible definition. That is why so many transactions which in substance are acquisitions will actually qualify for merger accounting. As a result, the price tag placed on a new subsidiary may vary enormously, depending solely on whether it is acquired by share exchange or for cash. This will lead to distortions in measuring the return on the investment and in making comparisons between the profitability of a group built up by cash acquisition and one built up by share exchange.

Secondly, companies will be encouraged to pursue acquisitions by share exchange for asset-stripping purposes so as to generate higher "profits" than would arise under a cash transaction. This is because, under merger accounting, profits are calculated on the value of the assets in a company acquired for shares, which may be inflated after acquisition and treated as profit of the subsequent period (albeit the distortion will have to be disclosed in the notes).

Thirdly, companies will be tempted to acquire new subsidiaries by share exchange towards the end of a financial year so as to boost the year's earnings. (Again, the effect of this practice would have to be disclosed in the notes, presumably on the premise that disclosing a colour as well as a profit is as useful as presenting it.)

And, fourthly, companies will be able to create pseudo-mergers by acquiring a subsidiary by share exchange

from another company, having first arranged for that vendor company to be able to place its new shares on the market immediately after acquisition. In substance such a practice is hardly distinguishable from making a rights issue and then buying the subsidiary for cash.

The Accounting Standards Committee acknowledges that its proposals could lead to abuse and seems prepared to rely on full disclosure of bad accounting practices.

Much of the controversy could be eliminated if a fair value had to be placed on the newly acquired subsidiary, irrespective of whether the acquisition was for cash or by shares.

The reason why such a practice has not been advocated in the past is that most people have assumed that, as a consequence, pre-merger profits of the newly acquired subsidiary would be frozen, whereas merger accounting usually allows them to remain distributable. If the vast majority of shareholders in the target company are to be offered shares in the investing company, it seems perfectly reasonable that these shareholders should continue to have access to profit earned by their company before the merger.

Principal objective

However, to meet this point, it would be relatively simple under present law to devise an accounting standard which required the newly acquired subsidiary to be included at its fair value, yet also enable pre-merger profits to be distributable by the group, provided they have first been paid upwards from the subsidiary to its new company.

In other words, the principal objective of those who advocate merger accounting may be achieved without adopting a different method of valuing the newly acquired subsidiary from that required when the acquisition is for cash, and without encouraging some of the abuses which will otherwise be perpetrated.

David Young

The author is the managing director of Spicer and Pegler.

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Distillers

Exports exceed £450 million

Extracts from the Statement of the Chairman, Mr. J. R. Cater, and from the Report by the Directors, for the year ended 31st March 1983.

General comments on results

Turnover and profits

The trading profit of £204.3 million was 12.5% higher than last year, reflecting improved results from each of our groups of products.

The increase in the sales value of Scotch whisky and gin, despite a reduction in volume, was assisted by the strength of the US dollar currency in which we invoice our shipments to the US of whiskies bottled in Scotland and Tanqueray Gin. With demand dampened by the economic recession, profitability was adversely affected by the relatively low utilisation of production capacity.

The Food Group and the Carbon Dioxide Company achieved increases in both turnover and profit.

The markets served by United Glass, the related company in which we hold a 50% interest, remained depressed. Due to further substantial redundancy payments and facility closure costs, our share of the recorded loss was only slightly less than for the preceding year.

Although UK interest rates were lower than twelve months earlier, the amount of income earned on short term investments and deposits rose by £6 million because of the higher level of our liquid resources.

The taxation charge for the year ended 31st March 1982 was disproportionately lower than the charge for the previous year. The position is now reversed. Following a steep fall in the "all stocks index", the taxation charge for the year compares unfavourably with last year's charge, with the result that the profit after taxation shows an increase of only 2.5% against 12.7% in the profit before taxation.

Dividends

An interim dividend has already been paid at the rate of 4.50p, an increase of 1.50p per share over the preceding four years. The sole purpose of the increase was to narrow the difference between the amounts of the interim and final dividends.

The directors recommend a final dividend of 8.50p per share, making the distribution for the year 13.00p against 11.75p last year.

Scotch whisky

Production

The export refund scheme for Community cereals, introduced in 1982, operated very satisfactorily throughout the year and enabled us to increase the proportion of Community cereals used. The only worrying aspect is the extent to which it is misunderstood by the British and the European Parliaments. It has been incorrectly seen as a subsidy to the industry. It is not: it is a proper reimbursement of the industry's own money.

Against a background of continued short time working in all Group distilleries, and because sales projections still disclosed an excess of stocks of maturing whisky against estimated future requirements, a decision had to be taken during the latter part of the year to close 11 of the smaller malt distilleries, 2 by-product plants, Carsebridge Grain Distillery and the Maltings at Port Dundas Distillery. The whisky maturation warehouses which form part of the closed distillery premises continued, and will continue, in operation. There are accordingly no immediate plans to dispose of any of these units.

During the year the Company commenced the sale of malted barley, employing the services of outside selling agents, which will enable greater use to be made of our malting capacity.

In a year when the Group's blending and bottling plants produced at a level well below capacity, it was considered essential to rationalise bottling activities in Fife. This resulted in the closure of Haig's outdated plant and the transfer of bottling to Distillers Company (Bottling Services) Ltd.

No new major capital projects were approved during the year but satisfactory progress was made in the completion of existing contracts.

EEC

In February 1983, the French Government finally complied with the European Court's decision of 1980 by removing the last element of tax discrimination against cereal spirits and in favour of wine spirits. In those three years, the French Government levied over £69 million in unlawful taxes on Scotch whisky imports. Simon Frères is continuing its legal actions to recover the unlawful taxes levied on its own sales.

The European Court condemned aspects of the Italian tax system which discriminate against Scotch whisky and gin. The Italian Government has not yet complied with those decisions.

The French Government recently introduced a new tax on spirits with an alcoholic strength of 25% or more, adding some 60p to the retail price of each bottle. This new discrimination makes the total rate of tax on whisky about 35 times higher than that on wine.

SUMMARY OF GROUP RESULTS

year ended 31st March	1983	1982
	£m	£m
Turnover	1,127.2	1,083.9
Trading profit	204.3	181.6
Profit before taxation	200.8	178.2
Profit after taxation	132.9	129.7
Dividends	47.2	42.7
Earnings per share	36.59p	35.72p
Dividends per share	13.00p	11.75p

Direct comparison of industry exports with the preceding year is not possible due to the gap in reliable information for the period between March and August 1981. A comparison for the September/March period of 1982/83 with the same period of the previous year indicates little change in the Group's share of bottled in Scotland shipments. However, an increasing share of sales continued to be taken by very cheap brands imported in bulk. Bulk shipments accounted for a quarter of the Scotch whisky sales in the continental EEC last year, and a growing proportion is being bottled at very low strength.

It is pleasing to record a small increase in the Group's total shipments to the continental EEC markets in 1982/83 compared with the previous year. Johnnie Walker Red Label maintained its strong position with a particularly encouraging performance in France, and Black & White continued to perform well.

The Group's response to the increasing complexity and competitiveness of these markets is to strive to optimise coverage by Group brands of each individual market and to strengthen those brands through increased and selective investment in advertising and other brand-building activities. In this way the Group will be best able to benefit from any future upturn in economic conditions within the EEC.

Home sales

Figures for the year showed a decline of 5.3% in clearances of Scotch whisky in the UK, with the Group's share of the total remaining stable.

Johnnie Walker Black Label and White Horse performed well. The Claymore increased sales substantially, which was encouraging in the face of the continuing growth of private labels owned by major retailing groups. Haig persisted in a policy aimed to position the brand in the prestige sector of the market. The new arrangements for the marketing of Dewar's by Hedges & Buder made a satisfactory start.

An extensive review of the Group's sales and marketing activities in the UK will result in fundamental changes which will enable the Group to operate more efficiently.

In the last two years, reference has been made to the application to the EEC Commission for approval of a price structure for the UK market which would permit a number of Group brands, including Johnnie Walker Red Label, to compete effectively in the UK as well as in export markets. The decision continues to be awaited.

During the year the Chancellor extended to spirits a concession on credit for the payment of duty similar to that which has been allowed for a number of years on certain other alcoholic beverages. Although the percentage rate of duty increase imposed in the Budget was slightly less than the rate of inflation, taxation on spirits compared with wine and beer remained grossly inequitable.

Exports

The volume of Group shipments in the year was slightly down on the previous year, but profits improved by 14%.

This improved financial performance was due to price increases and to the strength of the dollar during the second six months of the year when shipments to the US almost exactly matched those of the equivalent six months of the previous year.

Because of the lack of HM Customs & Excise statistics of industry exports of Scotch whisky referred to above, it has not been possible to compare industry shipments of blended Scotch whisky during the twelve months ended 31st March 1982 and 1983. The statistics for the seven months ended 31st March 1983 indicate that the Group's share of industry shipments had declined mainly as a result of the substantial growth of bulk shipments of blended Scotch whisky at extremely low prices. Industry exports of bulk malt whisky continued at a high level, but the Group does not participate in this trade which is considered to be damaging to the long-term interests of the industry.

In December 1982 price increases were announced for our export trade with the exception of UK-bottled Scotch whiskies destined for the US. However, because of the economic problems in a number of key markets, the buy-in was less than last year.

Group shipments to the US were marginally below last year's. Trade sources estimate that the volume of Scotch whisky entering retail channels was down by 6% during 1982 and there is every indication that the Group maintained market share. The recent slight upturn in the US economy is not yet being reflected in spirit sales. Dewar's White Label had another good year and Johnnie Walker Red Label and Black Label performed satisfactorily. Most of our brands bottled in the US registered increased depletions to the trade. Usher's Green Stripe and VAT 69 Gold were our leading brands in this category.

The Group's trade with South and Central America was seriously affected by devaluation of currencies, loss of oil revenue and political unrest. Less was shipped to Venezuela and, as a result of devaluation and import restrictions, despatches will be adversely affected in the current year. The Group continued to have a major portion of the Scotch whisky trade in this market with its de luxe brands.

The Group had an excellent year in Spain. Trade was very satisfactory in certain Far Eastern countries and in a number of volatile Middle Eastern markets. Shipments to Japan were increased; White Horse maintained its leading position and Old Parr continued to make encouraging progress. Two new brands - White Horse Extra Fine and Johnnie Walker Old Harmony - produced exclusively for the Japanese market were first shipped towards the end of the year and initial sales have been encouraging.

A severe downturn in shipments to West Africa was the main reason for the decline in business with the African Continent. Sales in Australia and New Zealand were seriously affected by economic conditions.

Gin

Production at Wandsworth Distillery was maintained at close to maximum capacity and Tanqueray Gordon's operations continued at normal levels. As a result of reduced demand, Booth's operated well below capacity. The new bottling facility under construction at Basildon made

good progress and should be on stream, as scheduled, by the end of 1983. Preliminary commissioning of the plant and equipment is already under way. As recently announced, it is planned to transfer the bottling of Booth's gins and Cossack Vodka to Basildon in 1984.

The economic recession continued to depress the market for gin in the UK and to encourage the growth of cheaper brands, particularly those owned by major retail interests. It is therefore encouraging to report that sales of Gordon's exceeded those of the previous year and the brand maintained its strong position as market leader. Although Booth's Finest Dry Gin lost further market share in the year, sales of High & Dry Gin again made a useful contribution to the Group's performance.

After two exceptionally good years, when previous records were broken, export sales of Gordon's declined, primarily as a result of import restrictions in West Africa, a major export market. Gordon's and High & Dry increased shipments to France which continued its promising development as a gin market. Gordon's fared well in the markets in which it is produced locally, and the success of the brand in Spain merits special mention. There was, however, some loss of ground in the US and in New Zealand.

Exports of Tanqueray Gin to the US continued to grow steadily and the brand further consolidated its position of strength in the imported gin category. Shipments to other export markets also improved and of particular note was the performance in Canada.

Other potable products

Cossack Vodka experienced considerable pressure in the UK. However, the brand, with a recently introduced new bottle and label, is expected to make headway in the future.

Sales of Gordon's Vodka in the US, where it is produced locally, remained solid.

Cognac Hine achieved a significant increase in profits. During the year Hine acquired Denis Mounie Cognac SARL which owns the potentially valuable Denis Mounie and Comandon brands of cognac.

Food Group

The Food Group had an excellent year, during which increased sales and improved production techniques contributed to higher profits.

The Peerless Refining Company continued to suffer from adverse conditions and a proposal to purchase this company, received from Acatos & Hutcheson Ltd, was accepted.

Carbon dioxide

Carbon dioxide sales showed a small increase during the year. A high volume of plant installation business, particularly overseas, improved profitability on the engineering side and overall profits increased.

United Glass

Demand fell sharply with particularly adverse effects on the Glass Container Division. Although trading profits improved, redundancy payments and other costs of facility closures rose. The result was a reduction in the overall loss from £6.2 million in 1981 to £5.3 million.

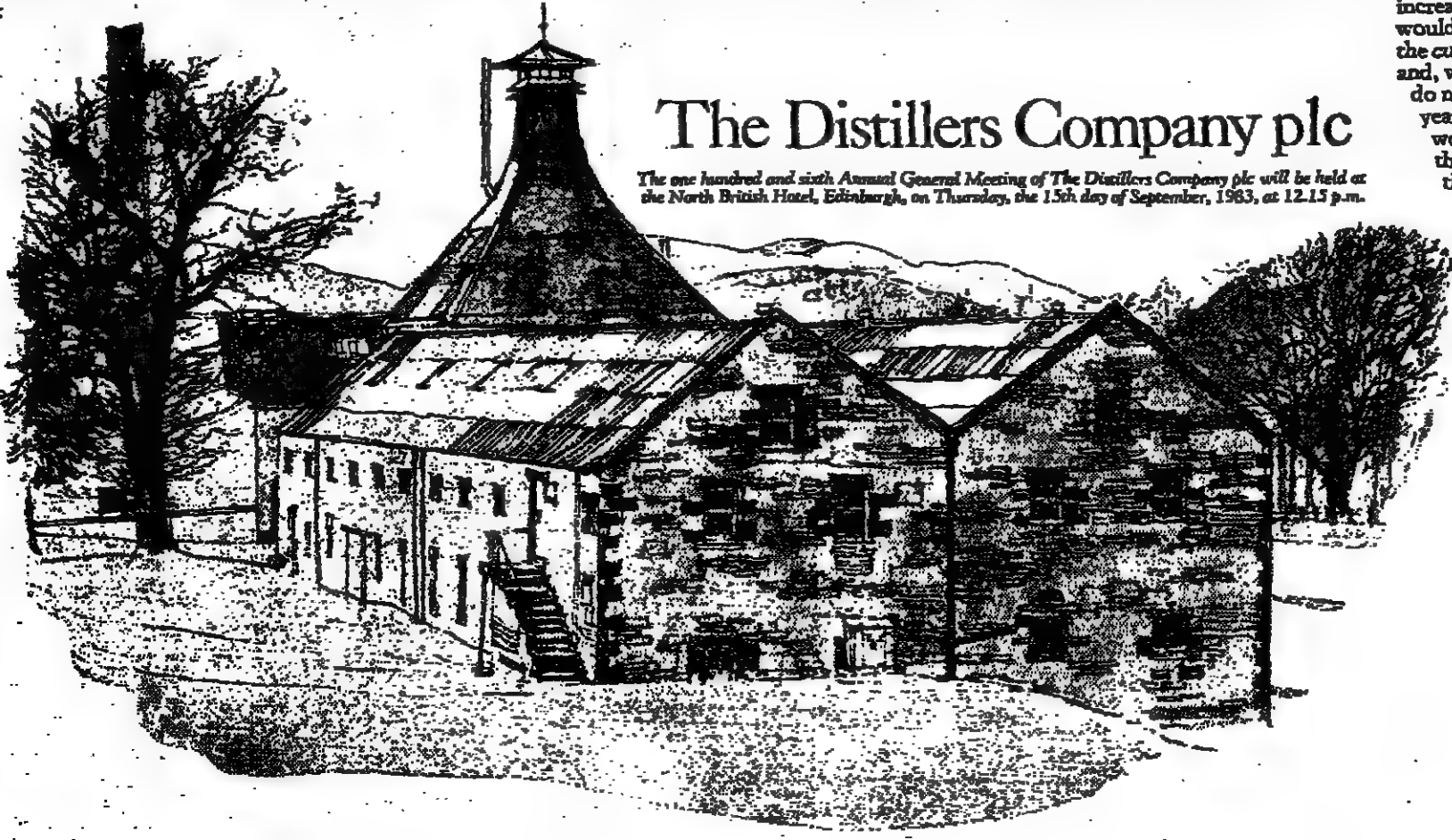
Trading conditions worsened in the first quarter of 1983 and further steps have recently been announced to restore a reasonable balance between production and demand.

Personnel

The year was relatively free of local industrial disputes. The Group's employees worked hard to help to achieve the year's results in difficult trading conditions and the Board expresses its sincere appreciation of their efforts.

Future prospects

The Directors' Report highlights the difficult trading conditions prevailing in a number of important export markets, and stresses that the apparent improved consumer confidence in the United States is not yet being reflected in spirit sales. An intensely competitive situation continues to prevail not only within the spirits industry but in the wider field of alcoholic beverages generally, and recent price increases in export markets have had to take account of what would be commercially sustainable. Against that background the current year cannot be viewed as one of great promise and, with the experience of fifteen weeks behind us, we do not expect the volume of sales to match that of last year. In the absence of any significant upturn in world markets, therefore, present indications are that the results for the current year are unlikely to reach those we are now presenting.



The Distillers Company plc

The one hundred and sixth Annual General Meeting of The Distillers Company plc will be held at the North British Hotel, Edinburgh, on Thursday, the 15th day of September, 1983, at 12.15 p.m.

GOLF: AMERICAN PUT BACK ON COURSE BY A WORD FROM HIS WIFE

Pavin discovers his touch to hoist the US banner

By Mitchell Platt

With a little slice of help from his wife Shannon, the American, Corey Pavin, brought a wide smile to the face of Benson and Hedges director, Len Owen, at Fulford yesterday. This year Owen resisted the temptation to import some of the superstars from the other side of the Atlantic for the £110,000 Benson and Hedges International. He felt that the towering trio of Severiano Ballesteros, Nick Faldo and Greg Norman brought a touch of quality to competition that only Tom Watson and Jack Nicklaus could improve upon. So why put outrageous appearance money when, in his words, "the European tour can stand on its own feet?"

Since Lee Trevino and Tom Weiskopf have both won the Benson and Hedges it was a brave decision. But as Faldo and Norman struggled and even Ballesteros failed to slip into top gear the slim and under-rated Pavin quietly hoisted the stars and stripes to the top of the leader board.

Not that this young man from Camarillo, a small town some 40 miles from Los Angeles, was all alone in making his move. After cruising to the turn in 33 holes nothing more than a seven foot putt for his four birdies, he promptly dropped shots at the tenth and eleventh as he became preoccupied with his position. At that

point Shannon felt it was her duty to lean over the barriers and inform her husband of four months that he should relax and start playing his usual game.

Pavin accepted the advice in good heart. Then he proceeded to hole six successive single putts, four of them for birdies, and completed a superb 65, 7 birdies, by reaching the 488 yards eighteen with a driver and a three-iron for his ninth birdie of the day.

At 5ft 9in and less than 10st he is not much of Pavin. But he has certainly made an impression since he turned to the professional ranks last September after a distinguished career as an amateur in which he represented his country in the United States. He may have failed to win his card for the US

185 C Pavin (US), 65; P Harrison, 72; Lyle, 73.

65: P Watson, G Marsh (Aust), J Bland (SA), W Humphreys, P Cowell, M Patten (GB), 68: T Morris, S Holby, 69: D Smyth, J Johnson (Zim), J M Carstairs (Spt), 70: G Thompson, 71: S Bland, 72: M McLean, T Britz (SA), B Barnes, K Walters, J Angell (Spt), J Hall, M Cobi (Aust), 73: P Curry, A Skelton, J Murray, C O'Connor, J R Chapman, B Dasso (N), A Jackson, M Garcia (Spt), 74: M Gordon, C Mathan, P Way, G Cullen, J Moore, J O'Leary, S Ballesteros (Spt), 75: J Hoggard, 76: G Goss, D Arnold, S Somers, M Jarmis, S Charles (NZ), M Ingham, 77: D Lugg, S Torrance, A Garmy (Spt), C Garmy, J Barnett, M Ferguson, 78: D Davis (Aust), N Clark, D Sheppard, 79: J Vane, R Buzell, C Platt, 80: J Kirk, R Fisher, J Brand, J R Miller, 81: A Haddy, D Robertson, S Longmire, S Bitt, A Chandler, D J Russell, D Ingham.

tour, but by winning the South African PGA championship he earned his passport for the European tour. Since his arrival he has won the German Open, holding off a strong challenge from none other than Ballesteros, finished third in the Scandinavian Open and earned £17,886. The honeymoon couple are certainly gathering a nice nest egg with which to return to America.

In many respects it was the day of the underdog. It was Peter Harrison, returning after two months on the sick list with bronchitis, collecting seven birdies for a 66. Harrison has not won a single penny this summer but there is now hope of him improving on his best ever performance of seven birdies in the Portuguese Open last year. Then there was Philip Walton, a 21-year-old from Malahide, near Dublin, celebrating his admission to the PGA European Tour with five birdies and an eagle in a 68.

The best round from the favourites came from Sandy Lyle. As if inspired by the presence of his wife Christine and their newly-born son Stuart he left behind him a succession of disappointing performances with five birdies and an eagle in a 67.

Severiano Ballesteros has confirmed he will be playing for Europe in the Ryder Cup match against the United States at the PGA national course in Florida from October 14 to 16 (the Press Association reports).

Scot eats all his rivals for breakfast

By John Hennessey Golf Correspondent

Colin Montgomerie, a brash Scot now based in Yorkshire, stole away at the crack of a golden dawn yesterday and was home before the best of the day with a round of 69 in the British youths' championship at Sunningdale. This matched the severe pace for the Montgomerie and stayed clear as the horde of challengers—there is a field of 150—came and went. Michael Campbell and Stephen McAllister, and Paul Mayo, a Welshman, got to within two strokes of him but Philip Parkin, the pride of Britain, lies seven strokes behind.

Montgomerie was hardly in the peak of condition for his performance. He had not got to bed before one o'clock, after celebrating Scotland's victory over England the day before, and was up at six for a tee-off at 7.39. He had eaten nothing and hit only 10 balls in practice, such was the extent of his exhaustion.

In the circumstances, a scrambled five at the first hole, with a single putt, was all that one might have expected, but he played splendidly with that indiscretion out of his system. Twice more, at decent intervals, he dropped shots, with a poor chip at the eighth and too much club at the seventeenth, but at other times he reduced two long holes to four and came off the eighteenth with a glow of satisfaction after holing a curly 15 foot putt described by his third birdie. Somehow, 69 always seems that much more acceptable than 70.

Parkin, the amateur champion, lived through a nightmare, looking every inch like a man who had been on a night shift outside the leg stump. The measure of his unmanageable long game was that he took only 25 putts. He was, he said later, "fascinated" by the way he played.

He reached the tenth green in 47 strokes, nine over par; after dropping two strokes at three holes and taking seven at the par-four third, where he had to take a penalty drop from a bunker, and then his third shot into a ditch.

He kept his composure marvellously well, however, and finished with the brave flourish of three birdies in the last five holes.

Under 18s: 69: C S Montgomerie (Spt), 70: M A Campbell (Spt), 71: M Taylor (Spt), 72: M A Campbell (Spt), 73: M Taylor (Spt), 74: M Campbell (Spt), 75: M Taylor (Spt), 76: M Campbell (Spt), 77: M Taylor (Spt), 78: M Campbell (Spt), 79: M Taylor (Spt), 80: M Campbell (Spt).

ALWORTH: 69: C S Montgomerie (Spt), 70: M A Campbell (Spt), 71: M Taylor (Spt), 72: M A Campbell (Spt), 73: M Taylor (Spt), 74: M Campbell (Spt), 75: M Taylor (Spt), 76: M Campbell (Spt), 77: M Taylor (Spt), 78: M Campbell (Spt), 79: M Taylor (Spt), 80: M Campbell (Spt).

Victory is two wins away from final

By Barry Pickthall

Victory '83, Britain's 12-metre challenger for the America's Cup, won her fifth round semi-final match against Canada 1 off Newport Rhode Island and now requires just two more wins in this nine-race series to be assured of a place in the final trials starting on August 28.

Victory, again skippered by Lawrence, led from the start to finish to win the 24-mile race by a margin of 1 min 58 sec, although her crew then had to wait for the result of a protest hearing before the result could be confirmed.

Terry McLaughlin, Canada's skipper, alleged that the two yachts collided when Victory, on port tack, was obliged to give way during the pre-start manoeuvres. However, a film of the incident shot from a helicopter was produced in evidence by Peter de Savary's British team, which clearly showed the committee that a collision did not occur, and the protest was overruled.

In the second match of the day, Australia II, the radical Ben Lexcen design from Perth, notched up her fourth win in the series (which began on June 18), beating Azzurra, the Italian challenger, by 2 min 25 sec.

On the second day of the final defence trials, also being held off Rhode Island, Courageous, the 10-year-old boat which successfully defended the Cup in 1974 and 1977, beat Liberty, skippered by Denis Conner, in both their encounters, to lead the unofficial points table with three wins.

The International Yacht Racing Union yesterday responded to a request from the United States yacht racing union to rule on the legality of Australia's keel by calling on executive committee meeting in London on August 30. The meeting will first decide whether, by backing the matter further, the union would be usurping the authority of the three-man International Measurement Committee, which has already ruled that the Ben Lexcen design does measure as a 12-metre.

Challenger semi-finals

	W	L	Pts
Australia '83	4	1	4
Azzurra	1	4	1
Canada 1	0	5	0

Final defence trials

	W	L	Pts
Courageous	3	1	3
Liberty	0	2	0

● Not including yesterday's races

Bailey can bless the wind

By John Nicholls

Graham Bailey, last year's holder of both the Sir William Burton Cup and the points trophy, was a somewhat fortunate winner of the race sponsored by Douglas Gill, in the National 12 championship at Llandudno yesterday. For most of the race he and his crew Karen Lincoln, had circled in about tenth place and looked as if they would have to settle for this position at the finish.

Out ahead was Tiger Lil (Nigel Maddocks and Alison Leech) who, after rounding the first mark on the inside of Ill Wind (Peter and Margaret), sailed away into what looked like winning lead. But the old yachting adage of a race never being over until the winner's gun was again proven to be sound.

As the leading group of boats approached the final mark, the course, the already fierce easterly breeze went haywire. Boats were running and beating on opposite tacks within a shorter distance of each other and at one time they were close enough to touch on all three legs of the triangular course.

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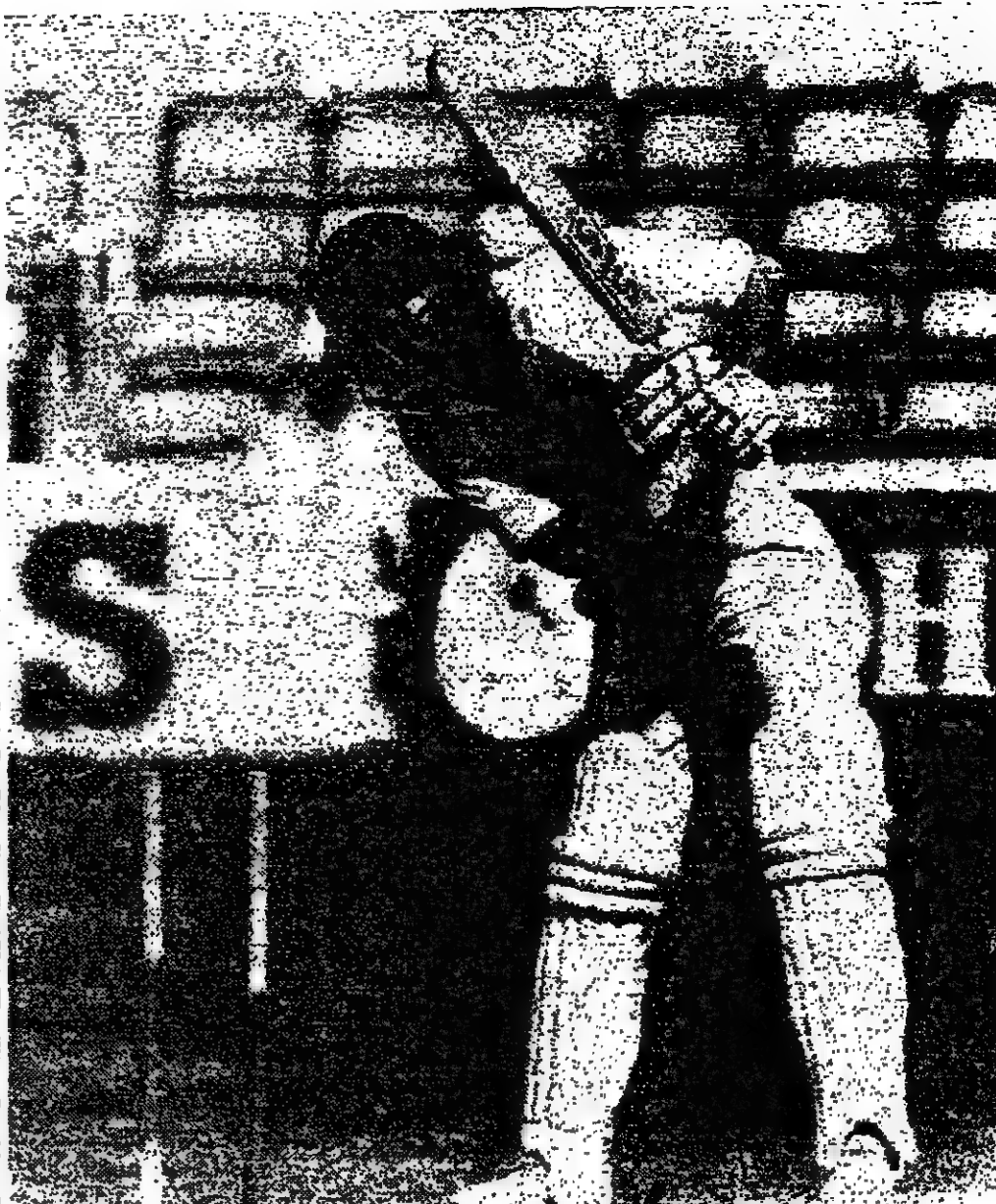
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Where did that one go? Pont, unhappily, knows the answer. (Photograph: Chris Cole)

Snedden spoils the party plans

By Peter Marsden

CHIEFS: The New Zealanders, with six second innings wickets in hand, are 198 runs ahead of Essex.

With one or two exceptions the Essex batting looked unusually brittle yesterday, and their innings buckled eventually to the bowling of Martin Snedden, whose haul of five wickets for 65 was by some distance his best performance of the tour so far. Essex reached 233, which was a much better total than had seemed probable, and for that they were indebted to Pont, who was very much the cavalier as he hit 58 of his runs to the boundaries in an innings of 81.

In an hour and three quarters' batting, before the close, the New Zealanders made 95 for the loss of Bracewell and then lost Franklin, Jeremy Crowe and Smith for 15 runs, to become 110 for four.

The sun reappeared and it was marvellously warm once again, with sufficient breeze wafting across the ground to make it a perfect day. Even the future looked bright, for the New Zealanders had declared at 32 for four, their total at the close would have to settle for this position at the finish.

Out ahead was Tiger Lil (Nigel Maddocks and Alison Leech) who, after rounding the first mark on the inside of Ill Wind (Peter and Margaret), sailed away into what looked like winning lead. But the old yachting adage of a race never being over until the winner's gun was again proven to be sound.

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Essex might develop the general feeling of well-being and lay on a party. It did not work out quite as the followers of Essex might have liked, but then the recent past has left them battle hardened and taught them how to ride calamities, frustrations and disappointments.

So, when Snedden took the first of his wickets by bowling Gooch off his pads, we had had time only in which to savour a brief taste and recognize the flavour, as with three subsequent strokes he sent Snedden and Hadlee to the boundaries. Gooch hung his head as he walked in, and if the New Zealanders were still behind, when and his switched ends the unfortunate success of Snedden inspired more as Hardie fell leg-before, to become the third wicket to fall at 47.

McEwan and Pont then showed up an innings that momentarily had seemed in danger of collapse, and managed to display the necessary discipline and discipline, while showing a willingness, and determination to turn to counter attack whenever the opportunity came.

The stylish on-driving of McEwan hinted at something more than the 26 runs he made before missing a full run back to the bowler, Martin Crowe, and at 102 for four following on, the New Zealanders were a formidable hurdle. Yet Pont's

Out ahead was Tiger Lil (Nigel Maddocks and Alison Leech) who, after rounding the first mark on the inside of Ill Wind (Peter and Margaret), sailed away into what looked like winning lead. But the old yachting adage of a race never being over until the winner's gun was again proven to be sound.

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Driving to the front: Pavin (left) with a 65 and Lyle with a 67.

Bell gets into swing

By Gordon Allan

It was the first day of the singles in the English national championships, sponsored by the Gateway Building Society, at Bench House Park, Worthing yesterday. In other words it was the time for watching form and temperament, for sorting out the known faces from the unknown, and, out of idle curiosity, trying to compile a short list of potential champions from a field of 89.

Two of those on the list met in the third round, John Bell, of Asprey, Cumbria, beating Gary Smith, of Old Colwyn, Eitham, 7-1-4 in a match of three parts. Bell dominated the first, Smith the second, and Bell the most important—the last. A change of most length by Bell also contributed to Smith's defeat. Smith failed to adjust quickly enough.

In the quarter-final round this morning Bell meets Gary Harrington of Summertown, Oxford, a fiery young player who put out another of the favourites, Paul Varnacopoulos, a Greek-born bowler from Croydon 21-17.

Geoff Readman, a police sergeant from Worcester Brotherhood, came back twice from discouraging, if not hopeless positions. He was 13-3 down against Paul Lewis, of Preston, Brighton, and won 21-20, next morning, 9 Crows (Barnes, Lakeside, Fook, Aldershot, Essex) 7; 3 Bell (Wigan, Cumbria) 2; 5 Davies (Worcester-Avon, Worcester) 14; 8 Stevens (Barnes) 10; 11 Giffiths (Worcester, Hampshire) 10; 12 Humphrey (Woking Lodge) 2; 13 Readman (Worcester) 10; 14 Lewis (Preston) 21; 15 Bell (Wigan) 21; 16 Smith (Eitham) 7; 17 Bell (Wigan) 21; 18 Smith (Eitham) 7; 19 Bell (Wigan) 21; 20 Smith (Eitham) 7; 21 Bell (Wigan) 21; 22 Smith (Eitham) 7; 23 Bell (Wigan) 21; 24 Smith (Eitham) 7; 25 Bell (Wigan) 21; 26 Smith (Eitham) 7; 27 Bell (Wigan) 21; 28 Smith (Eitham) 7; 29 Bell (Wigan) 21; 30 Smith (Eitham) 7; 31 Bell (Wigan) 21; 32 Smith (Eitham) 7; 33 Bell (Wigan) 21; 34 Smith (Eitham) 7; 35 Bell (Wigan) 21; 36 Smith (Eitham) 7; 37 Bell (Wigan) 21; 38 Smith (Eitham) 7; 39 Bell (Wigan) 21; 40 Smith (Eitham) 7; 41 Bell (Wigan) 21; 42 Smith (Eitham) 7; 43 Bell (Wigan) 21; 44 Smith (Eitham) 7; 45 Bell (Wigan) 21; 46 Smith (Eitham) 7; 47 Bell (Wigan) 21; 48 Smith (Eitham) 7; 49 Bell (Wigan) 21; 50 Smith (Eitham) 7; 51 Bell (Wigan) 21; 52 Smith (Eitham) 7; 53 Bell (Wigan) 21; 54 Smith (Eitham) 7; 55 Bell (Wigan) 21; 56 Smith (Eitham) 7; 57 Bell (Wigan) 21; 58 Smith (Eitham) 7; 59 Bell (Wigan) 21; 60 Smith (Eitham) 7; 61 Bell (Wigan) 21; 62 Smith (Eitham) 7; 63 Bell (Wigan) 21; 64 Smith (Eitham) 7; 65 Bell (Wigan) 21; 66 Smith (Eitham) 7; 67 Bell (Wigan) 21; 68 Smith (Eitham) 7; 69 Bell (Wigan) 21; 70 Smith (Eitham) 7; 71 Bell (Wigan) 21; 72 Smith (Eitham) 7; 73 Bell (Wigan) 21; 74 Smith (Eitham) 7; 75 Bell (Wigan) 21; 76 Smith (Eitham) 7; 77 Bell (Wigan) 21; 78 Smith (Eitham) 7; 79 Bell (Wigan) 21; 80 Smith (Eitham) 7; 81 Bell (Wigan) 21; 82 Smith (Eitham) 7; 83 Bell (Wigan) 21; 84 Smith (Eitham) 7; 85 Bell (Wigan) 21; 86 Smith (Eitham) 7; 87 Bell (Wigan) 21; 88 Smith (Eitham) 7; 89 Bell (Wigan) 21; 90 Smith (Eitham) 7; 91 Bell (Wigan) 21; 92 Smith (Eitham) 7; 93 Bell (Wigan) 21; 94 Smith (Eitham) 7; 95 Bell (Wigan) 21; 96 Smith (Eitham) 7; 97 Bell (Wigan) 21; 98 Smith (Eitham) 7; 99 Bell (Wigan) 21; 100 Smith (Eitham) 7; 101 Bell (Wigan) 21; 102 Smith (Eitham) 7; 103 Bell (Wigan) 21; 104 Smith (Eitham) 7; 105 Bell (Wigan) 21; 106 Smith (Eitham) 7; 107 Bell (Wigan) 21; 108 Smith (Eitham) 7; 109 Bell (Wigan) 21; 110 Smith (Eitham) 7; 111 Bell (Wigan) 21; 112 Smith (Eitham) 7; 113 Bell (Wigan) 21; 114 Smith (Eitham) 7; 115 Bell (Wigan) 21; 116 Smith (Eitham) 7; 117 Bell (Wigan) 21; 118 Smith (Eitham) 7; 119 Bell (Wigan) 21; 120 Smith (Eitham) 7; 121 Bell (Wigan) 21; 122 Smith (Eitham) 7; 123 Bell (Wigan) 21; 124 Smith (Eitham) 7; 125 Bell (Wigan) 21; 126 Smith (Eitham) 7; 127 Bell (Wigan) 21; 128 Smith (Eitham) 7; 129 Bell (Wigan) 21; 130 Smith (Eitham) 7; 131 Bell (Wigan) 21; 132 Smith (Eitham) 7; 133 Bell (Wigan) 21; 134 Smith (Eitham) 7; 135 Bell (Wigan) 21; 136 Smith (Eitham) 7; 137 Bell (Wigan) 21; 138 Smith (Eitham) 7; 139 Bell (Wigan) 21; 140 Smith (Eitham) 7; 141 Bell (Wigan) 21; 142 Smith (Eitham) 7; 143 Bell (Wigan) 21; 144 Smith (Eitham) 7; 145 Bell (Wigan) 21; 146 Smith (Eitham) 7; 147 Bell (Wigan) 21; 148 Smith (Eitham) 7; 149 Bell (Wigan) 21; 150 Smith (Eitham

Town where the America's Cup runneth over

From Trevor Fishlock
Newport, Rhode Island

It is an ancient mariner, his head a block of oak carved with a rusty chisel. "I'll tell you what the America's Cup is all about," he threatened in a voice made sandpaper by salt and cigarettes. But his words are lost as the jazz band on the jetty strikes up to greet the yachts returning from their day's jousting, and the groupies move forward to be nearer the crews.

All the nice girls love a sailor, and in cup year hearts melt faster than the butter almond ice cream, flavour of the month along Thames Street, which Rhode Islanders pronounce Thames, just to be different.

Newport is a fine old town with seventeenth-century roots, George Washington's pew in one of the churches and pretty painted wooden houses in streets that seem like sets built for a sea-going film epic. It is, inevitably, a place where shops are called Shoppes.

In its day it was a fortress of American class consciousness, where fearsome society aspirants condemned mountaineers to the elite as "not at ease in a ballroom".

Here the super-rich, like the Vanderbilts and Astors, built their holiday mansions overlooking Long Island Sound. And when the America's Cup competition moved here from New York in 1930 the combination of money, high society and gold-plated yachting, as well as the town's sublime situation, assured Newport's place as a magnet and famous resort.

The America's Cup is a major industry, and the economy here is partly built around the triennial challenges. Thousands flock here to imbibe the atmosphere created by what is essentially a non-spectator sport conducted out of their sight several miles out to sea. Some people go out to see the yachts in action, rather like making a safari in search of a rare animal, but most only see the yachts when they leave in the morning and return to their docks in the afternoon.

Twelve-metre yacht racing is the most costly of sports. The British challenge for the Cup, for example, is costing about \$5m. And, in a variation of what Archimedes discovered, the yachts displace a lot of money which flows into the town to support hotels, restaurants, bars, shops and galleries selling yacht prints and other knick-knacks.

Boutiques along America's Cup Avenue and 12-metre Mall sell thousands of T-shirts. The intense rivalries and loyalties here have made the T-shirt a modern version of heraldic



A place in the Newport sun for some, while invisible yachts fight it out for the cup. Photographs: Bob Adelman

devices, and Newport is a T-shirt town.

It has to be said that while thousands of people are milling about reading each other's chests, eating clams and drinking America's Cup White, a cheeky, if rather thin little wine, there are many men here taking life very seriously indeed.

Crews are as battle ready and as dedicated as commandos, their muscles hard after long months of training and their team spirit sharpened by coaches and psychologists.

Tensions are particularly taut this year because America's hold on a trophy it has never lost in the 132-year history of the competition has never been so seriously threatened. The teeth are being bared.

On present form the Australians are favourites to beat Britain for the right to take on the Americans in the final showdown next month. The Americans are worried because the Australians have closed the technology gap with a controversial delta-winged keel the Americans think may not be kosher and which they are still trying to have ruled illegal.

There is a lot of huffing and psychological warfare in America's Cup racing and the Australians are reveling in the fuss their secret weapon has

caused. The Fosters flag lager flying over their dock has the look of the Jolly Roger. The Australians still put a modesty skirt around the keel when the yacht is hauled out of the water each evening, and have posted guards to stop peekers.

Naturally you can buy a "secret keel" T-shirt.

The seriousness of this year's challenge offers a conundrum. The British and Australian hopefuls are more competitive than any previous challengers and are in a long line of challengers who over the years have spent millions of pounds to win the ugly old pot. But the quaintness and mystique of the competition lies in the fact that the Americans have never lost the cup. It may be sentimental to say so, but if the Australians win the America's Cup the competition will never be the same again. Much of its magic will have vanished like the money spent to get it.

Newport, the America's Cup city, would be appalled. The traders would be downcast. And imagine the feelings of an American skipper who lost the America's Cup. The Americans would probably want to keel-haul him and would no doubt ask the Australians if they could borrow their controversial keel for the purpose.



Ancient mariner stands firm among the T-shirts.

Third suspected death in kidney disease outbreak

By Arthur O'Shea

A third death was reported yesterday in the outbreak of the kidney disease, Haemolytic Uremic Syndrome, which has affected four areas of the country.

In Nottingham, not until now affected, a girl aged nine died in the Queen's Medical Centre on August 17. Dr Norman Miles, the area health authority medical officer said last night "It is 95 per cent certain that she died from the disease. A post mortem has been carried out and further tests are being made. I am treating it as an isolated case and there is no cause for alarm."

Over the past two months two deaths have been reported in the Black Country, a woman aged 59 at West Bromwich and a girl aged two at Willenhall near Wolverhampton. The number of children affected in the Black Country, Manchester and Sheffield totals 23.

Many have received treatment on kidney dialysis machines. Some are being given doses of vitamin E but it has been emphasized this is not "a miracle cure".

Health officials in three cities are working with the communicable diseases surveillance centre at Colindale, north London, in an effort to find the cause of the outbreak.

The Trent regional health authority at Sheffield said that so far in its area six children had been treated for the illness at the Sheffield Children's Hospital and three were still in hospital.

They come from the hospital's catchment area of Sheffield, Rotherham and Chesterfield. Last year, the hospital treated four cases and two of the children died.

In Manchester, Dr Michael Palmer of the public health

laboratory at Whittington Hospital said that four children had been affected since July, all of primary school age. All had recovered fully although two had needed kidney dialysis treatment.

Dr Paul Gully of Birmingham, a consultant in community medicine said the outbreak in the three cities should provide valuable information. He continued: "When a case is reported, we are asking those investigating it to ask a set number of questions in the hope that we can find a common factor."

"We normally get a few cases of this disease in the summer and autumn period, but because of the publicity this year, more are being reported than normal. Hopefully, with the added information and more suggestions from people up and down the country, we can establish a cause."

"My job, with other community physicians, is to try to establish a cause while clinicians work on a cure. We have received many suggestions as to a possible cause and are now getting down to the task of examining them."

The Centre for Applied Microbiology Science at Porton Down, Wiltshire, has blood samples from all the infected children in the Black Country; cultures have been prepared in the hope of isolating the suspected virus.

But yesterday, an official said that the centre had no progress to report. It could take up to a week for anything to grow.

The Department of Health said that there were usually between 18 and 20 cases of the disease in the United Kingdom each year.

Expert argues for ban on chemical weapons

Continued from page 1

lethal substances because countries insist on the right to make and use them as riot-control agents. He suggests abolishing the most biologically hazardous of these agents and confining others, with no legitimate civil application, to limited production under special licence.

He sees the most difficult issue as the question of compounds lethal only when two substances - relatively harmless when apart - are

combined during weapon-flight to produce a potent toxin, and argues that more elaborate controls are needed for some common commercial chemicals that could be misused.

Destruction of stockpiles of super-toxic agents would need a group of on-site inspectors with expertise in analytical control and book-keeping. Verifying that no new substance was being made would present difficulties, whereas suspicion of testing could be verified by satellite surveillance.

THE TIMES INFORMATION SERVICE

Today's events

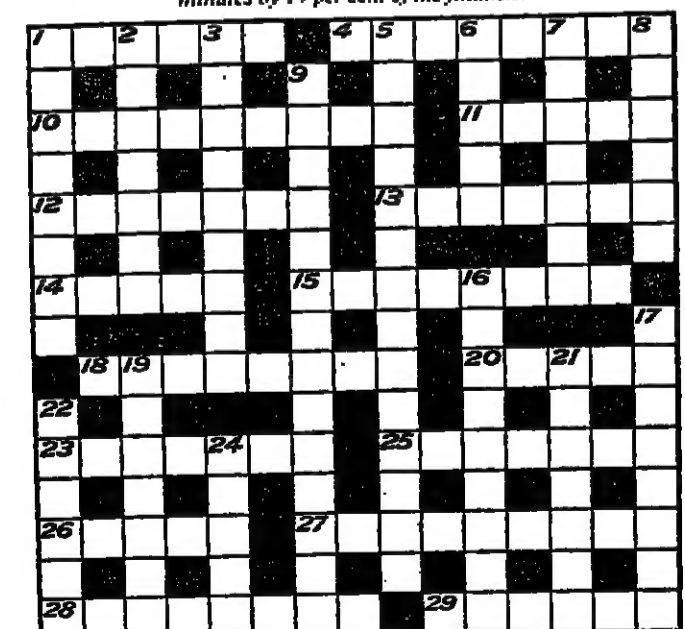
New exhibitions

The Last Beduin of Jordan, the Asley Cheetham art gallery, Trinity Street, Stalybridge, Tues to Fri 1 to 8, Sat 9 to 4 (until Oct 6).
Oxford University and College Portraits since 1845 and 20th Century Portrait Drawings: Ashmolean Museum, Oxford, Tues to Sat 10 to 4, Sun 2 to 4 (until Oct 23).

Oil Paintings by Kenneth Wynn, Abbie Tree House, 9 Fore Street, Baddeley Salterton, Devon; Tues to Sat 10 to 5 (until Sept 3).
Man and Music, Royal Scottish Museum, Chamber Street, Edinburgh; Mon to Sat 10 to 5, Sun 2 to 5 (until Jan 15, 1984).
So this is what we do with the least: Peak District Museum, Pump Room, Pavilion, Matlock Bath, Derbyshire; daily 11 to 5 (until Sept 11).
Action Portraits: Scottish press

The Times Crossword Puzzle No 16,212

This puzzle, used at the London B regional final of the Collins Dictionary Times Crossword Championship, was solved within 30 minutes by 19 per cent of the finalists.



- ACROSS
- Old geographer gives nothing to London hospital in return (6).
 - It's the bar of the court, there's no denying (8).
 - Beat artist? (9).
 - Brother (or other relation) of Valentine (5).
 - Strut into stone (7).
 - Hoffmann's girl shared the fate of Belloc's Matilda (7).
 - Charles has no directions for chopping tree (5).
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